

# Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, August 3, 2017

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## VANDALS IN SECOND ATTACK ON CANAL LOCK AFTER REPAIRS



Workers carry out repairs after the first attack

A SEVEN-MILE stretch of the Walsall Canal remains closed to boaters after vandals struck again causing thousands of pounds worth of damage to one of the locks, for the second time in a fortnight.

Two weeks ago balance beams on Lock 4 were discovered chopped up and dumped in the waterway.

The mindless act incensed the Canal and River Trust which was forced to close the entire Walsall Flight between Ryders Green and Town Wharf while repairs cost the charity £10,000.

But just as the beams were repaired

vandals targeted them again meaning the section of the canal has once again been rendered inaccessible to the public.

Walsall Council's leisure chief Ian Shires said: "The Walsall Flight links in to the canal basin where the art gallery is and everything else so it is an extremely important part of accessing what Walsall has got to offer. We are in the process of working with the trust to make the canal network even better so it is extremely concerning that these acts of vandalism are occurring.

"I haven't a clue about what the motives were from whoever has done this but the

real sad thing with issues like this is the severe knock-on effect to all of those who are trying to do things to improve the area.

He added: "We have got a lot of unhappy people at the minute who seem to be taking their frustration out on authority but in actual fact they are making matters worse."

The first incident was discovered on Thursday, July 20. After completing the necessary repairs the trust re-opened the canal a week later last Thursday only for the second act of vandalism to occur that night. The flight now remains closed until further notice.

## CQC call after company moved out of special measures

# MORE WORK TO DO CARE FIRM IS TOLD

A CARE provider in Walsall, has been told improvement is still required despite being moved out of special measures.

The CQC had rated Homebased Care, based at The Rock Centre, Lichfield Street, as inadequate in October and despite improving, it has now been rated as 'requires improvement' by the health watchdog. Issues surrounding the timing of care visits and the handling of informal complaints were noted by inspectors.

The provider received the 'requires improvement' rating for each of the five categories the watchdog grades homes and services on.

These are safety, effectiveness, care, responsiveness and leadership.

The CQC report on the provider said: "We saw some care visits could be completed two hours late or early on a regular basis.

"Management could not provide a clear explanation as to why this continued to happen. People told us they were happy with the support given by care staff when they arrived, however call times did not always fit their needs."

"One person's blood sugar levels were being impacted by late care visits preventing them from having meals close in time to the administration of their insulin."

"The management team told us they were working to make improvements. Some people and their relatives told us they were not al-

ways happy with the management of complaints made informally.

"We did see that informal complaints raised with the service around issues such as call times were not recorded in the complaints system. This can mean that quality assurance processes and audits may not identify the volume of concerns being raised."

Despite the concerns, it was noted that improvements had been made, with the provider now moved out of special measures. After an inspection last October, the home was rated inadequate and told to improve after a carer allegedly shouted at a person, while another being cared for was dropped from a hoist - but bosses at the provider were found to be unaware of the problems. Homebased Care were unavailable for comment.

## Thanks a billion for saying no, Dragons



Marco Hajikypr, seen with some of the dishes his firm provides

DRAGONS' Den contestants are known for over-estimating the value of their businesses - but one Great Barr entrepreneur who was rejected by TV's fearsome panel is serious when he says his company will one day be worth £1 billion.

Marco Hajikypr says his healthy-eating business has gone from strength to strength since he failed to gain investment from the Dragons last year. In fact, he is so confident about its future prospects he has turned down an offer of £90 million for his business.

He became the latest to irk Deborah Meaden who snapped and said 'this is like arguing with cotton wool' when trying to get answers out of the 28-year-old businessman.

But Marco believes it was the Dragons who missed out. His company, Professional Gains Meals, which provides healthy meals tailored to the customer, has since expanded to three units and employees 33 people.

He is confident the progress will continue over the next few years. He said: "I have turned down the offer to buy the business, even at that huge figure, because I want to build it up myself. The business is now valued at around £16m, when the Dragons didn't even think it was worth £2m."

Tailor-made fresh meals are available, with balanced protein, carbs, fat and vegetables, such as Italian chicken and sweet potato, salmon and brown rice or beef stew and kale.

## COUNCIL

## Call for public to fight on libraries

THE future of libraries across Walsall 'rests in local people's hands', according to a councillor. Beechdale, Blakenall, New Invention, Pelsall, Pleck, Pheasey, Rushall, South Walsall and Walsall Wood libraries all closed last month.

The council, which has kept Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston, Streetly (which will be community run), Willenhall and the central library open, needs to save £86 million by 2020.

Councillor Doug James, who represents the Darlaston South area, has called for residents to take action and ensure others remain open, as well as asking that the council continue to look at cost effective ways of preserving the sites.

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## POLICE

## Extra officers on duty for carnival

MORE police will be patrolling Bloxwich Carnival after disruption at a separate carnival earlier this month.

Seven men were arrested after violence broke out after Pelsall Carnival on July 8. Organisers said in a statement that the disorder was not connected to the carnival. Police have announced that additional officers will be at King George V Playing Fields on Saturday for Bloxwich Carnival.

## CRIME

## Cannabis haul found at disused factory

HUNDREDS of cannabis plants were seized from a disused factory. The cannabis farm was discovered in New Cross Street, Kings Hill, in Darlaston.

Around 223 plants were found by West Midlands Police officers during the raid, which took place at around 10.30am on Thursday. A force statement said no-one had been arrested. Anyone with any information is urged to call 101.

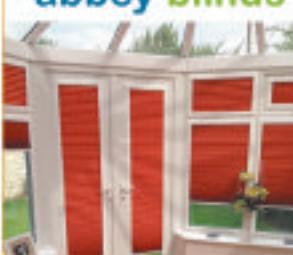
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## IT'S A GOLDIE OPPORTUNITY



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# Cars are damaged in arson attack



This blue BMW was torched

TWO cars were left severely damaged after a suspected arson attack in Walsall.

Firefighters were called to Sandwell Street in Caldmore, at around 6.05am last Tuesday, July 25.

Walsall Red Watch, who attended and extinguished the flames in around half an hour, released pictures of the vehicles.

A navy blue BMW was the primary target and was left severely burned at the back, particularly in the boot area, while the rear bumper was destroyed. A sky blue Ford Focus

also became involved in the fire and was left visibly blackened and charred while the driver's side rear wheel had melted to the road.

Police have confirmed it as a suspected arson attack.

The crew's Tweet said: "Red watch up early this morning at an arson attack in Caldmore, Walsall."

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman stated the crew left the scene at 6.37am and reported the incident to West Midlands Police confirming it as a suspected arson attack.



A Ford Focus was also burned

# Blaze could have been next Grenfell – tenant

**TERRIFIED** tenants escaped through windows as a block of flats was engulfed by flames – with one resident saying, 'this could have been another Grenfell'.

Eight people were rescued from the building on St Mark's Road, Tipton, and around 40 were evacuated.

Residents trapped inside climbed down ladders put under windows by firefighters. A dramatic image showed smoke pouring into the sky as ragging flames spread up the side of the Greenlawns block. A schoolboy was arrested on suspicion of starting the blaze. Residents gathered on the street and several roads were closed after the fire started at around 10pm on Thursday.

All tenants managed to get out of the building. Paramedics treated a man and a woman for smoke inhalation and no-one else was hurt.

A mother of three, who gave her name as Kez, said she feared mass casualties similar to the Grenfell Tower blaze in London.

The 32-year-old said: "This fire could have turned out like the Grenfell Tower. I can't go back into the flat because of the damage."

## Traumatised

Mother-of-two Christine Borton, aged 43, lives in a neighbouring block.

She said she saw a woman looking out of a window of the affected building, as the fire burned above her. She said: "It brought back memories of Grenfell. I'm really traumatised and shaken."

Janice Smith, the freeholder of the flat, told of chaos as tenants fled. She said: "I'm so thankful nobody got hurt. Buildings can be put right, but lives can't. There was around six or seven fire engines, ambulances, everybody came out."

Three tenants slept at Tipton Sports Academy, while others stayed with friends and family. West Midlands Police said a 16-year-old boy had been arrested on suspicion of arson.

A total of 28 firefighters tackled the blaze. Andy Smith, station commander at West Bromwich fire station, said: "The front section of the block, the part looking from the road, is unaffected. We have got people back in those nine flats there."

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "Council officers were at the scene helping with evacuating and supporting residents."



The dramatic image of the fire in progress at Greenlawns block



One of the fire engines seen in attendance at the site in St Mark's Road, Tipton

# New council chief ready to take up top position

A NEW chief executive is to be formally appointed at Walsall Council in the next few weeks.

Dr Helen Paterson will move from her current position as chief executive at Wrexham County Borough Council to the top position at the borough council after a special council meeting on August 7.

Existing chief executive Paul Sheehan announced in March he planned to retire.

Previously, Dr Paterson has been head teacher at several primary schools, an executive director of children's services and strategic director for transformation.

In addition she has been a member of a wide range of ministerial and national groups including the Bevan Commission.

She said: "I am delighted by the prospect of working with the elected members and committed staff at Walsall Council and look forward to the fresh opportunities. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Wrexham and look forward to applying the knowledge I have gained whilst here."

# Chipping in for school tidy-up

PUPILS, parents and staff came together to help give a lick of paint to a school building before the summer break.

The work at Grove Vale Primary School in Great Barr saw pupils chip in as part of the school's GV50 day.

School council leader Julie Bradbury said: "We did a massive GV50 day. All the school got involved, both primary and junior, and did lots of activities to clear up the outside of the school.

"The pupils painted wood, painted benches collected rubbish, did general gardening – anything that needed a bit of TLC. It was a big job."

"The kids did a great job. They loved it as they had to put their skills to the test outside the classroom. They're so used to do things on paper so they used the skills that they've got from there."

# Trial date set for vehicle theft charge

A WALSALL man will face trial on charges of stealing a black Vauxhall Corsa and driving it without a licence or insurance.

Sean Jefferson, aged 27, of Pelsall Lane, pleaded not guilty at Walsall magistrates and faces trial on September 6.

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# Shut library will reopen as a book exchange

ONE of nine libraries controversially closed is to reopen as a community-led book exchange from next month onwards.

Phasey Library, on Collingwood Drive, Walsall, will open its doors once again on September 1 thanks to committed volunteers and community leaders.

The service will run for two days a week at first, with the potential for that to increase depending on its initial success.

Councillor Chris Towe, who has been working with residents to try and get the library building in use again, said: "Myself and the other Phasey Park Farm councillors are very passionate about this.

"However, it is the wonderful volunteers who have made this a reality.

"It won't be the library as we remember it but it does put the building to good use and it could be start of something bigger.

"I was devastated when the library closed and a lot of other people were too."

"I am excited to see what the future holds now."

Later this month, two induction days have been organised at the library for those willing to become a volunteer.

The first will take place on August 22 at 10am, with the other on August 23 at 6.30pm.

## Work placements on offer with BT

BT is offering free work placements to help young people in the Black Country get 'work ready' and prepared for their future careers.

The two and three-week courses, combine hands-on work experience with coaching and training, are open to 16-to-24-year-olds not in education, employment or training.

The next local courses are at BT's offices at 1 Providence Place West Bromwich, from August 21 and at Network House, Goodall Street, Walsall, for three weeks from August 29.

Colin Bannon, of BT said: "BT work placements give local, young people the opportunity to experience the working day and gain invaluable insight."

Visit [www.bt.com/workready](http://www.bt.com/workready)

## Car part stolen

TWO men were seen clambering over a fence with a catalytic converter they stole from a Citroen Picasso in Hatherton Street, Walsall, won July 21. The suspects fled in a van along Lower North Street. Call police on 101.

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# Jailed breast surgeon struck off register



Ian Paterson

A SURGEON jailed for carrying out unnecessary breast operations on 10 patients has been struck off.

The actions of Ian Paterson, aged 59, were 'serious' and 'intentionally harmful' over a period of 14 years and 'fundamentally incompatible' with the medical professional, a tribunal has ruled.

His failure to acknowledge any of his faults showed a lack of insight that indicated he still posed a serious risk to patients, the medical practitioners tribunal also concluded.

Paterson was sentenced in May to 15 years in prison after he was convicted by

a jury of offences of wounding with intent and unlawful wounding against the 10 patients. Among his victims was Frances Perks, from Burntwood, and Leanne Joseph from Cheshay Hay.

His trial at Nottingham Crown Court heard harrowing evidence from the nine women and one man who were treated in the private sector between 1997 and 2011 at Little Aston and Parkway hospitals in the West Midlands.

Paterson did not attend the disciplinary hearing in Manchester and was not legally represented, although he was made aware of the proceedings by post to HMP

Nottingham. The tribunal heard Paterson did not oppose the proceedings and had expressed a wish to be erased without the need for a hearing.

Announcing the consultant surgeon's erasure, tribunal chairwoman Valerie Paterson said: "Mr Paterson's actions were serious, intentionally harmful and took place over a protracted period of time."

Charlie Massey, chief executive and registrar of the General Medical Council, said: "I am pleased that Ian Paterson has been removed from the medical register, and can no longer do harm to patients."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### B&M shop will bring in 35 jobs

MORE than 30 shops will be created when B&M opens up in Walsall this month.

The shop will open at unit 6, Digbeth, St Matthews on August 17, creating 35 jobs. It follows the opening of B&M in Aldridge, bringing in more than 130 jobs in the county in total.

A company spokesman said: "We're feeling really positive about the creation of even more jobs for local people and we hope customers are going to be delighted with their new store."

Jobs are advertised on the B&M careers website and range from sales assistants to floor managers and cleaners.

### Casino gambler takes home £28k

A PUNTER walked away with nearly £28,000 after scooping the jackpot at a Walsall casino.

The customer won the jackpot playing the Grosvenor Casino's new Ace King Suited side bet on the tables, winning £27,922.

Grosvenor Casino Walsall general manager Adam Evans said: "We're thrilled to have a jackpot winner."

"We have heard news of many other Grosvenor Casino customers winning the jackpot all around the country and it's great to be part of the good news with a winner of our own."

### Patrols stepped up at graveyard

POLICE are stepping up patrols after pots, flowers and ornaments were stolen from a church graveyard near Walsall.

One theft at St Peter's Church, Stonnall was reported to police community support officers last week. It followed a similar incident which the local enforcement has since been made aware of.

PCSO Andrea Horsnall confirmed a pot and fresh flowers placed on a grave had been stolen. The theft of an ornament from a grave in the same graveyard was also reported.

### Green light for £6.5m schools expansion plan

PROPOSALS to spend £6.5 million expanding six primary schools in Walsall have been given the go-ahead.

The move will create around 100 extra places and aims to meet high demand.

Walsall Council's cabinet approved the plans at a meeting last week. Councillor Ian Shires, who sits on the committee, said: "It is good news that we can do this but we really would like to be doing more."

## Goldie's got it MADE with mural



Birmingham artist Ziner with the huge mural outside the Rainbow Venues, of Walsall-born star Goldie. HE'S always been a larger-than-life character and now Walsall-born DJ and actor Goldie has been immortalised with a huge mural in Birmingham.

The 51-year-old's image has been painted on the wall outside the Rainbow Venues in Birmingham as part of this year's MADE Festival.

Goldie said: "I feel quite hon-

oured with these guys rolling out this killer piece; it's still the one true remaining art form that's very close to my heart."

"You can download music, but you cannot download art, you have got to see it in the flesh and how it affects you."

On Saturday, MADE Festival

took over Digbeth for a sold-out event featuring world-class music, street art and food that celebrated Birmingham's thriving creative community.

Fresh from the release of his latest album, Journeyman, Goldie performed a rare reggae-only set during the daytime at MADE, ahead of a drum and bass performance of the night. The Journeyman is the musician's first album since Saturnz Return in 1998.

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## Four in five happy with rail journey

MORE than four in five rail passengers in the West Midlands are satisfied with their journeys, according to a new survey.

Some 92 per cent of users said they were satisfied with Virgin Trains' service and 84 per cent with London Midland – slightly higher than the national average.

Overall 83 per cent of people were satisfied with their last train journey according to Transport Focus' spring survey of 27,000 passengers.

This is an increase of three per cent compared with the same period last year and is the joint-highest figure since autumn 2012.

## More students are proving first class

UNIVERSITIES across the West Midlands have seen a rise in the number of students gaining first class degrees.

Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency found that the University of Wolverhampton has seen the biggest rise in figures.

In 2010/11, 10.3 per cent of students gained first class honours and that has now risen 13.8 per cent in 2015/16, with 24 per cent of students making the grade.

Across the UK the proportion of first class degrees being handed out has soared, with a third of institutions now grading at least one in four with a top honour.

## Snap to it and join photo challenge

YOUNG people are being urged to get snapping during the school holidays and enter their photos into the RSPCA's Young Photographer Awards.

Entries can depict a bug, a bird or a big, beautiful mammal, as photos of any kinds of wildlife and animals are welcome.

For the first time there will be a prize given for the best photograph taken on a mobile phone. The deadline for entries is 4pm on August 18. Go to [www.rspca.org.uk/ypa/17](http://www.rspca.org.uk/ypa/17)

## Authority has new director of finance

THE latest key appointment to its executive top tier has been announced by West Midlands Combined Authority.

Sean Pearce was named as director of finance for the authority, joining a team led by £187,000-a-year chief executive Deborah Cadman. Mr Pearce was chief financial officer at Worcestershire County Council for six years. He will start in the autumn.

# Baby died sleeping with parents

A FOUR-month-old baby died after spending the night in bed with his parents and brother, an inquest heard.

Joe Onufer-Balaz was discovered cold and unresponsive by his mother, Jana Onuferova, at 4am on June 9.

The baby's father, Andraes Balaz, performed CPR while an ambulance was called but Joe was later pronounced dead at Walsall Manor Hos-

pital. Miss Onuferova told the Black Country coroner the family would sleep together in a bed at their flat in Jones House, between Penkridge Street and Lewis Street near Walsall town centre.

The inquest heard Joe was later found to have four fractured ribs which a pathologist calculated were sustained between 48 hours and "a few weeks" before his death.

West Midland Police had investigated the death but DI Pete Rowe said there had been no signs of bruising and there would be no further criminal action.

There was also evidence Joe had DiGeorge syndrome and was missing his thymus gland which could have affected his immune system.

Coroner Zafar Siddique reached an "open conclusion."

He said: "While I can understand Joe had got DiGeorge syndrome the exact mechanism of death is unclear to me."

"While the condition may have been a contributory factor in his death it is a very complex medical condition. "So for those reasons I will leave it as an open conclusion. I can't on the evidence know the mechanism of how the death occurred."

# Six-year prison term for addict who faked crash

By John Scott

**A DESPERATE** knife-wielding drug addict who staged a car crash to get money for his next fix has been jailed for six years.

Stephen Allen was trying to kick the habit but arrived too late to collect his prescription for Methadone.

The 42-year-old reached the shop at Bentley in Walsall minutes after its closing time and staff, who were locking up for the night, said Mr John Brotherton, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Less than half an hour later Allen crashed into the rear of a car in which two women, aged 81 and 67, were travelling along Park Lane, Darlaston on their way to play bingo.

Allen feigned illness, the jury heard, and clutched his chest as if in pain.

The younger woman, saw through the ruse and urged the other to call the police. When the defendant realised what was going on he pulled out a knife and threatened both women.

But she bravely called his bluff by replying: 'Go ahead,' revealed Mr Brotherton.

Witnesses were able to give police a partial registration number of the vehicle in which Allen fled from the scene.

It was identified as belonging to the defendant, who had 44 previous convictions involving 182 separate offences. When officers swooped on his home in Stag Hill Road, Walsall, following the March 7 incident they found him hiding in the loft.

Allen pleaded not guilty to robbery and attempted robbery but was unanimously convicted of both offences by a jury following a trial.

## Dozens flock to hunt for missing bird



Search for Charlie the missing macaw are Samantha Smith and her mother, Charlie's owner Angie Rothery

MORE than a dozen people flocked together to hunt for a missing bird in Walsall.

The group was on the search for a macaw which went missing in Walsall on July 7.

The bird, named Charlie, escaped through owners Angie and Adrian Rothery's back door at their Rushall home.

After the couple put out a request for help, people turned out for the search, which began on Asda car park, Bloxwich.

Charlie, was spotted, but took flight again before he could be reunited with his owners.

Adrian said: "It was a brilliant turnout

and I thank everyone who came along. Angie did spot him, but I'm afraid he flew away and we're still looking for him."

The couple already have a £1,000 reward out for the bird, which they believe is living off wild berries and fruit from people's back gardens.

The blue and gold macaw used to go on holiday with its owners, including to the likes of St Tropez and Cornwall.

The two-year-old was bought by 55-year-old Angie from the Hollybush Garden Centre at Shareshill. He can say 'stop it', 'do you want this' and 'hello'.

Anyone who spots the bird is asked to call Angie on 07771 890720.



The missing macaw

## Traveller transit site idea to halt problem

A REVIEW into how traveller camps are tackled across Walsall has been called for – with the possibility of finding a transit site being looked into.

A number of illegal camps have been set up across Walsall in recent weeks, despite the introduction of a court order last year to help the council remove travellers from sites more quickly than it previously could.

However, cabinet member councillor Ian Shires has said that this just means the council has been "moving the problem around" and said he believes the authority needs to take "drastic action".

He said: "The costs of the incursions so far this year is mounting up into the hundreds of thousands of pounds.

"I have asked for a review of how Walsall Council deals with this problem as even when officers get sufficient evidence together to get injunctions on worst affected sites all that is achieved is moving the problem around."

"The view that the coalition administration is coming to is that we need to take the drastic action of identifying one site in the borough as a transit site. By doing this any unauthorised encampments could be dealt with without the need to go through the current process which generally takes between four to five days."

Councillor Shires added that there was no site identified as a transit site yet. In recent weeks, Aldridge Airport, Stubbers Green and Bentley Lane, Willenhall have all been targeted by travellers. Camps have also been set up in Pelsall Common and King George V playing fields.

## Awards recognise grassroots game

VOLUNTEERS in grassroots football have been rewarded for their work.

BBC presenter Jenny Wilkes hosted Birmingham County Football Association's annual awards at St Andrew's. More than 100 volunteers were in attendance, representing a total of 18 clubs, leagues or football organisations.

Winners included Tipton Youth for FA Charter Standard Development Club of the Year.

Walsall College won Birmingham County Football Association education project of the year.

Kevin Shoemake, chief executive officer of Birmingham FA, said: "It was a fantastic evening which really highlighted the amazing people we have involved in the grassroots game around the region."

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# Acid attack threat made to children of ex-partner

A SPURNED boyfriend threatened to throw acid in the face of his ex-lover's teenage son after he was dumped.

Michael Hale carried out a campaign of abuse and harassment towards his ex for more than two months after their relationship of more than two years broke down.

One minute the 48-year-old was sending her roses in breach of a court ruling not to contact her, the next he was urinating on her car, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The court heard he had met her in a nightclub in Walsall three years ago but turned abusive after she broke up with him in March, threatening to attack both her children if she continued to ignore him.

After arrest, Hale was released on police bail with a condition not to contact her but continued to do so. It continued into June until he was arrested again and remanded in custody.

Prosecuting, Edward Soulsby said: "She is now always aware of her surroundings, rather like stalked prey."

In defence, Richard Davenport said the incident caused him to feel guilty about leaving the mother of his five children.

Hale, of Linden Close, Bentley, Walsall, admitted harassment and a count of stalking. He was jailed for 21 months and subject to a seven year restraining order against his former partner and her children.

## Three in court on car theft charges

THREE men have appeared in court on car theft charges. It relates to a Ford Fiesta Titanium stolen from Hales Lane, Smethwick, on July 21, and a Fiesta and Vauxhall Astra, taken in Pheasey, between July 4 and 5.

Luke Hodgson, aged 19, from Lower Higley Close, Quinton, and Joseph Brennan, 20, from Tamerton Road, Bartley Green, Birmingham, were charged with aggravated vehicle taking, dangerous driving and driving whilst disqualified at Dudley Magistrates Court. Ronan Lewis, 18, from Goodman Street, Ladywood, is accused of going equipped to steal.

Jacob Brown, 24, of Bowling Green Lane, Handsworth, will appear on August 8 charged with taking without consent.

## New equipment

VOLUNTEERS at Walsall Manor Hospital have helped to raise cash towards an ultra slim Olympus colonoscope. Just under £39,000 was raised from goods sold at the League of Friends' two shops and tombolas.

# Firm fined after worker's 15ft fall



Pictures from inside the warehouse

BOSSES have been hit with a fine of more than £250,000 following a warehouse accident that left a worker with life-changing injuries.

A warehouse manager at Probus Creative Housewares, formerly of Virage Park, Bridgton, Cannock, was working on storage racking on December 8, 2015 when a pallet gave way underneath him.

The worker, from Walsall, fell 15 feet onto a concrete floor and was airlifted to hospital and placed in a medical induced coma for three-and-a-half weeks. His injuries have been

life-changing and he now suffers from a range of complications, meaning he is unlikely to work again.

The unnamed worker suffers from epilepsy and is unable to drive due to the risk of fits. He is undergoing rehab with brain injuries charity Headway.

The company pleaded guilty on June 5 at Newcastle under Lyme Magistrates Court to four charges under health and safety laws – failure to ensure the safety of employees, inadequate risk assessments, failure to train the injured employee and failure to properly plan and supervise work

at height. Director Srdjan Urosevic, who lives in Germany, admitted failing to ensure the safety of employees and inadequate risk assessments.

District judge Jack McGarva imposed fines and costs totalling £260,000 on the company and £30,000 on Mr Urosevic.

Councillor Muriel Davis, health and wellbeing leader with Cannock Chase District Council, who prosecuted the company, said it happened "because of poor health and safety" at the site. No-one from Probus was available for comment.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### HomeServe to take on 30 apprentices

A HOME assistance provider is recruiting 30 new apprentices.

HomeServe, which has its headquarters in Walsall, is bringing in 10 new gas engineers and 20 new plumbing and drainage engineers. They are being recruited to support demand across the UK.

The two-year course involves class-based training through Walsall College and on-the-job experience with an experienced HomeServe engineer.

The new apprentice intakes are planned for August and candidates are invited to apply at [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch)

### Chernobyl children families needed

BLACK Country families are being sought to host children still affected by contamination from the 1986 Chernobyl radiation disaster.

The Friends of Chernobyl are entertaining seven Belarusian youngsters who are travelling 1,700 miles to the UK for the trip of a lifetime. The charity targets children aged seven-to-12 who then stay with local families for a four-week recuperative break.

The charity is looking for new host families for next year and volunteers to help fundraise throughout the year. See [www.focblackcountry.org.uk](http://www.focblackcountry.org.uk)

### Girls have designs on contest win

TWO students scooped £200 for their school through a design competition.

Shanzay Rasool and Jaipreet Kaur Gill from Park Hall Junior Academy were among the 100 entrants aged eight-to-10 asked to design their ideal bedroom blind.

Out of more than 100 different entries, judges chose the two girls for their creativity and use of colours.

Park Hall Academy said the money given to them by blinds-2go.co.uk would go towards more art supplies to enable them to bring on future generations of artists.

### Canal stretch closed after vandal attack

A STRETCH of the Walsall Canal was closed off after one of the locks was vandalised.

Parts of the balance beams at lock four near Ryders Green were chopped off.

West Midlands Police has been made aware of the incident while Lee Bates, a team leader for the trust covering the Black Country network, confirmed the Walsall Flight would remain closed for the foreseeable future.

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## Website may say dry but really it's chucking it down

## Electric cars can lead to problems

SHOWING that it hasn't lost its knack for capturing the public mood and getting to grips with the burning subject that is on everybody's mind, the Government has announced it will be banning the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2040.

The future, it seems, is in silent, shiny electric cars, not those noisy, old-fashioned gas guzzlers. Which is rather odd, because electric cars have been around since the 1850s, and Wolverhampton industrialist Thomas Parker was one of the world's leading producers of them in the second half of the 19th century. We're hardly talking cutting edge technology.

And the reason why they didn't really catch on was because petrol and diesel power were much more efficient. Plus you don't have to trail a lead down 14 storeys if you live in a tower block.

Perhaps we need to invest in our infrastructure a little, you know, metal slots down the middle of the road, and handheld throttles to control the speed. Maybe a plastic lap counter in the pit-stop to see how fast you're going. Let's hope they don't decide to need to move over to electric ships and aeroplanes. The extension cables will be massive.

□□□

SPARE a thought for poor Clare Balding, having to get by on £200,000 a year for presenting commentaries on show-jumping and dressage.

Clare is one of 40 female BBC staff who have written complaining about pay inequality following the revelation that some of the corporation's male stars are being paid millions.

While it is ridiculous to suggest that Michal Husain, who is still learning the ropes, should be paid the same as veteran John Humphries, the malcontents do have a point. Is Gary Lineker really worth as much as 10 female sports presenters? Of course not.

No doubt, the BBC will spend the next few years navel-gazing about how to address this inequality, but the solution is simple, even if it is not what I suspect Balding & Co have in mind. Pay them all less. If the prime minister can manage on £150,000 a year, then so can Gary Lineker. And Clare Balding for that matter.

And if, as the argument goes, it means they are poached by ITV offering more money, what's the problem? I don't suppose the viewers care what channel they watch the football or horse-dancing on.

The BBC keeps telling us its role is to make unique programmes that the private sector would never provide. Fine, so get on with it. And leave the big-money, populist programmes to the private companies.



Kate on tour has raised claim that trips would be better if we had a Royal Yacht



Chancellor Philip Hammond – is he the target for the poison darts?



Jasper Carrott is due to go under the knife for major heart surgery next month

# It's whether we can believe what we read

USING something called a supercomputer, the Met Office tells us we must expect record winter rainfall "over the next few years." By pure coincidence, this announcement came as I was consulting the BBC weather website which told me that, at that very moment, my postcode was dry and would remain so all morning. It was chucking it down. I have a lot of time for the Met Office. Looking ahead two or three days, it is much more accurate than it ever used to be. But there are times when it doesn't even know what the weather is doing now. And guesstimating what the weather will be doing years from now is like trying to nail seaweed to a pinecone.

AFTER a couple of spinal twinges, I typed "bad back" into Google and found this: "You know you're getting old when your back goes out more than you do."

THE nationwide obesity epidemic doesn't affect only humans. A reader saw a couple setting off with their plump labrador for a walk in the Yorkshire Dales. The first stile through the dry-stone wall was one of those ancient ones, made with two upright stones and a narrow gap between. The labrador was too fat to squeeze through and too heavy to lift over. End of walk.

THE successful European tour by Prince William, Kate and the kids has inevitably raised the claim that trips like this would be much better if we had a Royal Yacht. Royalists get all misty-eyed at the memory of Her Majesty stepping ashore in foreign parts from the immaculately polished Britannia. Wouldn't it be grand to build Britannia II? No it wouldn't, for two reasons. The first is that even the biggest royal yacht would be dwarfed by some of the mega-vessels owned by the global elite of Middle East

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



princes, Russian oligarchs, dodgy businessmen and Mr Bigs of the drug industry. The second reason is that we actually have a magnificent Royal Yacht which, conveniently, already carries the Queen's name. HMS Queen Elizabeth is our shiny new 65,000-ton aircraft carrier. For the next few years it will have no aircraft and no conceivable military purpose. Let us therefore paint it white, deck it with bunting, stuff the fridges full of Pimm's, fly the Royal Standard and send it around the world to spread goodwill. And if it accidentally bumps into one or two megayachts and sinks them, so much the better.

IN the debate on gender stereotyping, I referred recently to that ancient institution, the battle of the sexes. A reader tells me his strategy is total capitalisation at every opportunity. He regularly asks his wife: "What do you want doing wrong next?"

CAN Theresa May and her wobbly, minority Government survive the entire length of a full Parliament, with its Cabinet members squabbling like schoolchildren in the playground?

The Cabinet is in an unprecedented state of disarray, with malcontent members aiming their poison darts at Chancellor Philip Hammond.

JASPER Carrott, 72, is going under the knife for major heart surgery next month, followed by three months of recuperation and I feel sure we all wish this great national treasure well. I interviewed him 12 years ago when he was 60 and

in great form as he unveiled his first Rock With Laughter event in Birmingham. I can see him now, leaning forward in his chair conspiratorially, as though he was sharing some great medical secret. "You know, Pete," he smiled, "we're going to be the first generation that never grows old." Time has a great way of throwing that sort of prediction back in your face. Carrott and the rest of the babyboomers have had a great time on this planet but immortality has never been part of the deal. The closest today's seventysomethings may get to Carrott's prediction is to become the first generation that never grows up. Which, it has to be said, is better than nothing.

WHITEHALL'S plan to ban petrol and diesel vehicles from our roads by 2040, announced a couple of days ago, is presumably based on the hope that technology will deliver stronger and longer-ranged electric vehicles. At present, it takes a brave, or extremely rich, motorist to invest £40,000 in a car with a range of only 150 miles and no towing capacity. Unless we get a new generation of electric engines, we can kiss goodbye to the joys of caravanning. And what becomes of the traveller community is anyone's guess. One contributor to the Caravan Club website writes glumly: "Now you know why the travellers have kept their horses."

MEANWHILE, some mathematically-minded folk have been doing the sums on how much power recharging several cars at the same time will demand from the average household wiring system. One Daily Telegraph reader predicts "Circuit breakers would pop or wiring would melt." He wonders whether every house in the land will have to be rewired.

## TALKING POINT



## No excuse for lack of grace and social skills

IGNORANT, anti-social or just plain rude. Whatever you want to call it, it is bang out of order.

We bring up our children – or we should – to learn social skills as well as academic ones. Good manners, the ability to communicate politely, etc. Yes the occasional swear word may creep in, especially when some boy racer driver cuts you up on a corner, but on the whole constant swearing is just unacceptable.

These social skills are so important. No matter what academic talents a person may have, first impressions count, and if they are not well mannered or smartly dressed for occasions such as a job interview in most cases they should be shown the door.

Recently back from a lovely holiday in France – and I am not mentioning this because of the Brexit debate – I noticed how many of the older people, my generation, are totally lacking in social graces.

They push in, never say pardon, and do not respond when you try to be friendly or help by opening doors for them.

They give the impression that they don't want you there. Maybe they don't, but they must remember that a lot of these areas are dependent on us tourists.

Family holidays there with our children were always treasured. It is a beautiful country and having quality time with the kids was always a treat – even though it did cost us a fortune in drinks and ice creams!

But this year I was shocked by the behaviour of the young parents. Take for instance, and we saw a lot of such examples, one couple eating out in a restaurant with their young children.

Both parents were glued to their mobile phones with no interaction with the children – or even with each other. It is often said that the worst thing you can do – worse even than telling off children – is to ignore them. They were obviously guilty as charged!

And what an example to set the young ones. It is no wonder that when the children get older they will be doing exactly the same thing, on their phones instead of talking to each other.

They sometimes say that families who eat together stay together but maybe not if most of the meal time is spent staring at their mobiles. Instead show them good manners and respect, listen to what they have to say and they too will show respect in return.

It will bode them well for their future.

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# Problem shows no sign of going away

HOW many fines were handed out to motorists in Darlaston South this year for parking in restricted areas outside our schools? Only three in the first six months of 2017.

So much for enforcement and community policing. Have you witnessed the chaos, high risk and angry confusion at school gates and off-load areas near schools?

This is a problem that shows no signs of disappearing. All the community safety, public health, and highways, education and police have failed to deliver solutions.

The simple fact is that selfish drivers are putting children's lives at risk by parking dangerously and illegally. Despite the high

**COUNCILLOR DOUG JAMES**

Walsall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Walsall Chronicle,  
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### EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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## Full marks to activists trying to save libraries

I SEE that my good friend Conservative Leader, Councillor Mike Bird, says he will 're-open Pelsall Library as and when his group takes control' of Walsall Council.

This begs the question: Given that Walsall Council is at parity with 30 Labour/Lib Dem and 30 Conservative councillors and allies, but with a Tory Mayor with a casting vote – Marco Longhi, a Pelsall councillor, no less! – why didn't Councillor Bird take control of the council last month and save Pelsall Library rather

than allow it to close? Full marks to all those community activists in Pelsall, elsewhere in Walsall and right across the country who are less interested in easy headlines than in the hard work of salvaging something from the wreckage of Government-inspired library closures, in Walsall's case, by turning closed libraries into community hubs, where possible with some kind of book-lending facility.

**RICHARD WORRALL**  
Councillor  
Rushall/Shelfield Ward

## Give old tenants a chance to return

I WELCOME the fact that Walsall Housing Group (whg) submitted its plan for hundreds of homes on the former Goscote estate and that the planning committee gave its approval.

Only five years ago, whg, supported by local Labour councillors wanted to build on nearby green belt at The Lea and were prepared to let the Goscote land 'grow wild' as alternative green belt. Residents' opposition, of which I was a leading member, successfully persuaded the council leadership at the time, led by Councillor Mike Bird to listen to the people and withdraw support.

Five years on we are seeing a much more desirable plan which entails the regeneration of the land that was left empty following the demolition of over 300 properties, a decade ago.

However, only 74 out of 426 new homes will be for rent. The real need in this area is for homes at affordable rents as most people find it difficult to get mortgages.

I also hope whg will use the opportunity to create as many local jobs and apprenticeships as possible in the construction work.

Finally, at the time the old Goscote properties were demolished whg circulated a letter to its tenants stating they would have the chance to return to Goscote once the new homes were built there.

I call upon whg to honour this commitment.

**PETE SMITH**  
Blakenall

## Build for a better future

WE always hear not enough affordable homes are being built and that we must recruit building workers from other parts of the EU.

Instead of putting youngsters in prison, can't we teach them how to build houses? Give them the chance to take a building course in lieu of a prison sentence, giving them pride and a trade for life instead of an apprenticeship in crime.

**ROGER WATTS**  
Walsall

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# Temporary staff bill at council hits £21m

MORE than £21 million has been spent by Walsall Council on temporary staff in the last two years.

The authority, which is making cuts across all services, spent £11,010,151 in 2015/16 and a further £10,348,111 in 2016/17, according to figures.

A total of 420 jobs at the authority are to be axed through compulsory and voluntary redundancies over the next four years as it looks to save £86 million by 2020.

But bosses have said that bringing in people on temporary contracts allowed them to 'respond to seasonal needs', adding that the most recent figures had seen a drop in spending.

Walsall Council spokesman Danielle Taylor said: "It allows us to respond to seasonal needs and access specialist staff when needed, without incurring the costs of permanent appointments. The costs for 2016/17 were lower than 2015/16."

Chief executive of the Taxpayers Alliance, John O'Connell, said: "Those making these decisions need to work hard to bring this total down so that taxpay-

ers know as much of their money as possible is going towards essential front-line services."

Former council leader Mike Bird, head of the Conservative group, said he believed the council should look to make permanent appointments 'where possible', but could understand why some departments relied on temporary staff.

He said: "These are big figures and in my opinion the council should be looking to make permanent appointments where possible."

By contrast, all Walsall Council staff will have their pay frozen for the next financial year as the authority looks to save £86m by 2020.

**Alicia Hungary for swimming success**



Alicia Dingle with the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Marco Longhi, in the Mayor's Parlour

A YOUNG swimmer was welcomed to the Mayor's Parlour after being called up to take part in the European Youth Olympic Festival in Hungary.

Mayor, Councillor Marco Longhi welcomed Pelsall swimmer Alicia Dingle and her family to the parlour to celebrate her first international call up, as part of Team GB.

Alicia was joined by her proud family – parents Neil and Tara, brothers Cameron and Dominic and grandmother Councillor Longhi said: "It is wonderful to see what a member of an everyday family can achieve, but clearly, family support is absolutely key to Alicia's success."

Alicia started out her swimming at Walsall Swimming Club, later switching to The Royal Wolverhampton. She is currently the fastest female 100m swimmer in Europe for her age group, and in the top 10 for other distances. She won gold in the 200m freestyle at the 2016 English nationals.

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# Arson-hit club vows to rise from the ashes

HISTORIC Pelsall Villa FC has been rescued from the ashes of a devastating arson attack after an 'overwhelming' response from the community.

The 120-year-old club was saved from closure after residents rallied round following two serious acts of vandalism in three weeks.

In the latest, reported in The Chronicle last week, arsonists destroyed the committee room, newly refurbished toilet block and dozens of new seats donated by Stoke City.

The attacks put the club's future in doubt. But after a meeting, club bosses decided the club will not be kicked into touch.

After a clean-up operation, rebuilding work was getting under way this week. Pelsall Cricket Club has invited the football club to use its facilities for hospitality on match days, while The Queens pub is holding a fundraiser on Saturday.

## Fixtures

The Midland League has also re-arranged the club's fixtures so that their first few matches of the season will be played away.

Co-chairman Darren Phillips said: "One hundred per cent we're not going to fold. We were on the floor when this first happened but the response has been overwhelming and we're a lot more optimistic now."

He and fellow chairman Mark Bentley have pledged to have the ground, nicknamed The Bush, match-ready by August 28.

Mr Phillips said: "Everyone is pulling in the same direction. The target is to have the ground ready to play on August Bank Holiday, for our match against Bloxwich United."



The aftermath at Pelsall Villa after the arson attack

## Firms battle for fit title

BUSINESSES can battle it out for a survival of the fittest-style contest in the Black Country. A new initiative aims to get employees fit and active, with the chance to become the region's sportiest workplace.

Firms are encouraged to sign up to the Workplace Challenge, launched by Active Black Country, which sees employees track their physical activity.

They are awarded points for doing exercise and these are tallied to give an overall score for their company.

The business with the highest figure will win the Active Black Country title.

Active Black Country chairman Deborah Williams said: "We would love to see the Black Country business community take on the challenge."

Ian Carey, Active Black Country head of physical activity and sport, said: "Sport has always had the power to bring people together in a fun, friendly, competitive environment."

Visit [workplacechallenge.org.uk/blackcountry](http://workplacechallenge.org.uk/blackcountry).

Mr Phillips said: "Everyone is pulling in the same direction. The target is to have the ground ready to play on August Bank Holiday, for our match against Bloxwich United."

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# Heroic son up for award after saving father's life

A 14-YEAR-old boy has been nominated for a top award after saving his father's life.

Caine Wildman had completed a first aid course just days before springing into action to save dad Craig in February.

Now the teenager has been nominated for the St John Ambulance Everyday Heroes Awards. TV presenter Katie Piper will host the awards on September 28 at Hilton London Bankside.

Caine returned from school to his home in Moxley in February to find his father lying on the sofa. He thought he was just playing with his younger siblings, Vinny, 12, Indy, seven and Jensen, five.

However, when he came downstairs after getting changed and called his name, he realised his dad was unresponsive and was turning blue.

### Recovery

Caine immediately took action, putting his recent first aid course to good use by putting his dad in the recovery position and calling an ambulance.

The operator then guided Caine through the CPR technique, which he remembered from his training. His dad had gone into respiratory failure but Caine had saved his life.

Caine said: "I came home from school and saw dad lying on the sofa with the kids running around him.

"I thought he was just messing around – my brother and sisters play rough-and-tumble games all the time.

"I went upstairs to get changed but when I came down dad was still lying there. He'd gone blue and hadn't moved.

"I said his name a couple of times but when he didn't answer I used all



Craig Wildman with his life-saving son Caine, aged 14

my strength to pull him up and on to the floor. I put him in the recovery position. I had done a first aid course about two weeks before.

"I then called an ambulance, rolled dad on to his back and started CPR.

The emergency operator was telling me what to do but I also remembered it from training. When the paramedics arrived, I took my brother and sister out of the room and calmed them down as they were screaming and crying.

"The consultants said dad had gone into respiratory failure. He'd been ill with pneumonia but didn't realise he had it. They said I'd saved his life."

A statement on the St John Ambulance awards website said: "Each year, too many people die in situations where first aid could have given them a chance to live. Thanks to the knowledge and heroic actions of some inspiring individuals and organisations more people are alive today."

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## Braving elements for outdoor show



Heartbreak Production's adaptation of The Secret Garden at Walsall Arboretum

CROWDS braved the damp conditions for an evening of open air theatre at Walsall Arboretum. The picturesque grounds played host to the children's classic The Secret Garden.

Rainfall failed to put a dampener on proceedings as revellers turned out in their numbers for the production.

Councillor Chris Jones, portfolio holder for clean and green at Walsall Council said: "The performance was very impressive and the Arboretum team had some great feedback after the show."

"Although there was a little bit of rain, everyone seemed to have come prepared and the show went on uninterrupted."

Heartbreak Productions, the company behind the show, return to the Arboretum on September 3 to perform Murder on the Terrace. For more details on upcoming shows visit [www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk](http://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk)

# Petition is set up after approval of homes plan

RESIDENTS have voiced their anger over development plans in Aldridge.

The householders had objected to the plans to demolish a bungalow and its outbuildings on Erdington Road, and out for homes in its place.

But the proposals were approved at a Walsall Council planning committee meeting, overruling officers, who had recommended refusal on the grounds that they were contrary to the adopted development plan policies.

A total of 23 letters were submitted to the council prior to the meeting, saying the development would be out of character for the area. There were also fears over the impact on residents' privacy.

### Visibility

Resident Mark Ryder, said he had asked for the plans go back before the committee, raising concerns over the building on green belt land.

"We also have concerns over visibility," he said. "Erdington Road is a busy 30mph zone where cars regularly travel at much higher speeds. It is going to lead to

By Jordan Harris

crashes if these homes are built because they won't be able to see out on to the main road.

"We believe that some of the measurements and planning put forward to be incorrect and we have asked that the council request the plans come before them again after being fixed.

"We are also set to start a Facebook group against the development and put together a petition."

Councillor Mohammed Nazir, head of the planning committee, said: "We were aware that there were objections to these plans but we also had people who were in favour and wanted to speak.

"At the meeting, only those in favour showed up."

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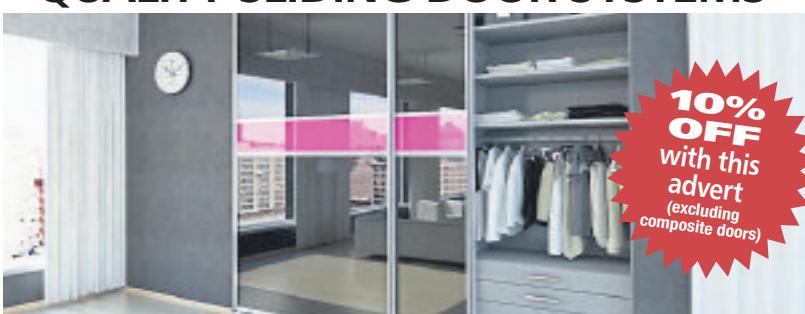


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A BAR manager in the Black Country has likened two 'amateur' thieves to Laurel and Hardy after they caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage to his recently refurbished venue just to steal handfuls of cheap booze.

Matt Lemm opened up Bar10 at the iconic former Wharf building at Walsall Waterfront in February having spent around £50,000 sprucing it up.

But around 4am on Sunday July 23, two burglars smashed through the front door and fled with several bottles of alcohol in plastic bags worth no more than £80 – which Mr Lemm said he would have given them for free if they were so desperate for it.

He is more incensed that it has cost him £500 to replace the front door.

Now Mr Lemm has put up a reward for information on the culprits which leads to their conviction.

### Smashed

CCTV footage, which has been viewed more than 1,600 times on his Facebook page, captures two hooded men stuffing bottles from behind the bar into carrier bags.

Mr Lemm said: "I watched the CCTV back and it really was amateur night. They smashed the front window and was inside for about two and a half minutes.

"All I can say is that it was like Laurel and Hardy trying to rob the place going backwards and forwards.

"They have taken bottles of Prosecco you can get for £6 in Asda. The maximum they took is about £80 worth. Some of it was already open so they won't be able to sell that.



A CCTV image of the two raiders who ended up with just £80 worth of booze



The former wharf building which reopened as Bar 10 in Walsall town centre

people in the town, but unfortunately it had not come as a surprise.

He added: "To be fair we knew this was going to happen. Before it wasn't a very successful place.

"We took it over and done it all out and was expecting something like this, although not this early.

"It is a bit of a shame. You try to do something good for the town."

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# Life for killer husband who tore family apart

## Scheme nears completion



Poundland is on board at St Matthew's Quarter

ONE of the key pieces in Walsall's regeneration puzzle is nearly complete. It had been scheduled for a May finish, but the St Matthew's Square redevelopment, now called The Quarter, is taking shape and is expected to be completed in the coming months.

B&M Bargains and Poundland are already on board the scheme, with dozens of jobs to be created. The work complements the on-going £90 million regeneration of Walsall town centre and is the second part of a multi-million pound in-

vestment in St Matthews Quarter. Phase One included building the largest town centre Asda supermarket in the UK, as well as a 1,000-space car park which opened in 2007.

Plans for the second phase had to be rethought when the listed Shannon's Mill had to be demolished due to a fire in August 2007. The demolition work was originally supposed to begin last year but eventually started earlier this month. Other work includes the transformation of the iconic Hole in the Wall into flats and a restaurant.

A KILLER husband has been sentenced to life in prison after being found guilty of murder.

Azad Singh murdered his wife, Kulwinder Kaur, in a rage after catching her with another man in their flat at the Pinnacle, in Gomer Street, Walsall. He must serve a minimum 14 years after being convicted by a jury at Wolverhampton crown court.

The jury heard he had stabbed her once in her neck, once on her shoulder and once in her side. Singh claimed the first blow was inflicted without his knowledge and that he was subsequently 'trying to stab her in the arm'.

In the trial, Majinder Virk, 41, told the jury he had begun giving Mrs Kaur lifts to the Slick Stitch embroidery factory in Old Heath Road, where they both worked, in around July last year. At first he said they did not talk during the journey but by January they were in a sexual relationship.

On the morning of January 18 they had sex in Mrs Kaur's flat. Singh arrived shortly after. Mrs Kaur, 40, told Mr Virk to hide in her son's bedroom but 46-year-old Singh discovered him after becoming suspicious.

Miss Rachel Brand, prosecuting, said Singh repeatedly punched Mr Virk.

He escaped through the front door with aid of Mrs Kaur and Singh later pleaded guilty to assault occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm. Singh then took a kitchen knife and stabbed his wife three times, with the blade slicing her carotid artery. Within minutes Singh had left the tenth floor flat and went to see family friend and confessed.

Detective Inspector Justin Spanner, said: "There can be no justification for Singh's actions. A family has been ripped apart.



Azad Singh

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# 3,000 over 90s still hold driving licence

## Theatre group fun day



Joseph Sheppard, aged eight, Akshay Gaddu, 11, Sharnay Ebanks, nine, Charlotte Hale and Ieva Rakauskaite, both 10, enjoy the fun day

A FUN day raised money for a not-for-profit children's theatre company. Sea-Change Theatre Company put on the event at the Coneygre Centre on Sedgley Road East in Tipton to help raise money towards its next production.

The fun day included bobbing apples, hook a duck and a treasure hunt, raising around £400 for

the musical production Money will also go towards hiring the Coneygre Centre as well as on lighting for the show.

Kierron Emery, 23, from Oldbury, who co-founded Sea-Change along with his former Oldbury Academy teacher Ann Cartwright, said: "The fun day was to raise money for the show we are doing in October."

MORE than 3,000 people aged 90 or over still hold driving licences in the West Midlands, new figures show.

There are 2,750 men and 979 women in their 90s who hold licences, a study by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency found.

It comes has national data showed 248 people aged over 100 still hold valid licences, compared with 100,281 over-90s.

The West Midlands has the third highest number of over 90s with licences – behind Hampshire and Greater London.

Once motorists reach 70 they have to renew their licence every three years and answer written questions about medical conditions and eyesight quality.

As senior citizens are more likely to have a range of health problems and slower reaction times, there has been plenty of debate on the issue of the safety of older drivers.

### Care

But a study from Swansea University last year claimed more mature road users are no more dangerous than other drivers.

Professor Charles Musselwhite, from the Centre for Innovative Ageing, who undertook the study, said while reaction times decreased as people got older, this was compensated by older drivers taking more care on the road.

"We've looked at those statistics in depth and we don't think that as a cohort older drivers are any more dangerous than other road users," he said.

He said older people adapted to worsening health conditions, like failing eyesight and slower reflexes, well – but warned this could become an issue in future.

Other figures from the DVLA show that of the 39,975,351 licences issued, 54.1 per cent were issued to male drivers and the oldest provisional driving licence holder is a woman aged 103.

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## Putting faith into fun day



Amaara and Anniyah Rashid with Rev Gilbert David

HUNDREDS attended a special fun day held to bring a multi-faith community together.

The event was held at All Saints Church in Darlaston, which aims to host a number of fun days a year.

It featured a large marquee for face painting, arts and crafts and a number of stalls, as well as a bouncy castle and tea, coffee and

cake served inside the church. It was organised by Interfaith Darlaston with the help of Walsall Council and Heart of England which provided funding.

Rev Gilbert David, vicar at All Saints Darlaston and All Saints Moxley, said around 300 turned up and the Mayor of Walsall announced the baking contest winner.

A COMPANY director faked records and invoices in a £320,000 VAT scam to pay off debts.

Muazam Sarfaraz set up Walsall-based Bullioncard to manage the new debit card and customer identity system for the scrap metal trade, but went on to use it to commit tax fraud.

The 37-year-old set up the company in March 2013 and tried to register for VAT in May the following year using his father's name. But Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rejected the registration as all of the contact and accounts for the firm were in Sarfaraz's name.

He became a sole proprietor and filed his first VAT claim for a £320,679.69 repayment in May 2015. Investigators found the company initially traded a little and had three employees but there was no evidence of any substantial business activity.

### Invoices

When arrested in June 2016, Sarfaraz, of Waterfront Way, Walsall, initially denied any fraudulent activity but then admitted falsifying invoices and faking records.

He admitted inflating the company income, overstating a loan from a charity and falsifying statements, business records and invoices from a supplier. He said the fraud was committed to pay off personal debts, including private school fees for his children and debts accrued running his business.

Richard Young, Assistant Director, Fraud Investigation Service, HMRC, said: "He knew he would be depriving public services of vital funding and giving his company an unfair financial advantage."

Sarfaraz pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of VAT. He was sentenced to 20 months, suspended for two years, must do 200 hours of unpaid work and was banned from being a company director in the UK for 15 years.

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# Legion of interest in map of Roman roads

THEY built 2,000 miles of famously straight roads across the UK – including highways through Staffordshire and the West Midlands that are still used today.

Now a London Underground-style map of Roman roads has been drawn up by a student studying statistics at the University of Chicago.

The colourful network simplifies the road system of 43 – 410 AD Britain for modern history fans.

The map looks very different to a 21st century A-Z or road atlas, with no sign of how important Birmingham or the Black Country conurbation of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, and Walsall would become – and no

trace of an M6, M54, A449, A454 or an A41. The only local towns shown on student Sasha Trubetskoy's subway map are Penkridge, given its Latin name of Pennocrucium, and Wall, then called Letocetum, both important stopping-off places on the Romans' long journeys around the country.

## Important

Pennocrucium was around three miles south-west of the modern town of Penkridge. Wall was near the junction of Watling Street and Icknield Street, also shown on the map, now known as the A38. Both were important military staging posts for the Romans, providing accommodation, baths and a change of horses.

One of their most important routes was Watling Street, the Roman military road to North Wales, which ran from east to west, beneath

the modern A5 trunk road, running through Brownhills and Cannock. The Via Devana was another road built for military use rather than to serve the local population, which was very sparse in these parts during Roman times.

It ran from Colchester in the south-east through Wall and Penkridge to Chester, which lays claim to being the oldest Roman city in Britain. The road later fell into disuse.

All the roads were designed to allow troops to move quickly, and also provided vital routes for business, trade and the transportation of goods.

While the roads were very advanced for their time, transport itself was not so sophisticated, and a journey from London to York, which today would take four hours by car, would have taken five days to complete in a carriage. Roman roads were typically 16 to 23ft – five to seven metres – wide.

Their preservation in the UK varies, with some still protruding from the land and easily visible while others are hidden under earth and have only been found thanks to light detection scanning.

Within the map, the dots and circles show the cities, towns and settlements, while the different coloured lines denote the roads, with a key explaining these on the right.

It includes the Latin names for towns and cities across the UK, such as Londinium, London, Mamucium, Manchester, and Pons Aelius, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

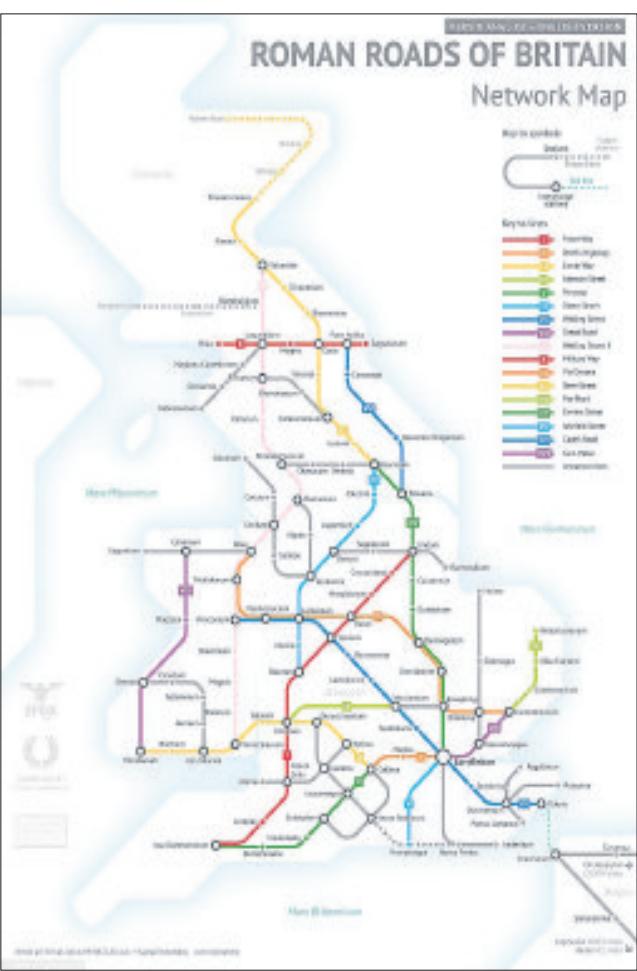
Mr Trubetskoy, who spent days making the map, said: "I pretty much included every known Roman settlement in Britain, as well as some locations that were only a fort/camp, or tribal settlement under Roman control."



The Roman site at Wall, near Letocetum



Watling Street runs through Brownhills



Sasha Trubetskoy's underground-style map of the country's Roman roads

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# Hallelujah! Scott's on a music mission

**T**he churches of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire and Shropshire may be put to an unusual use in coming months as the region's Ivor Novello Award-winning Scott Matthews embarks on a remarkable journey.

The Wolverhampton-based singer/songwriter is presently recording his sixth album, which is due for release in April, and hopes to record in a venue with stunning acoustics.

And rather than head to studios in London, Bath, Wales or Scotland – he wants to stay close to home and find a unique and bespoke environment in which to record. The idea is to capture the magic that Scott's concerts create, where fans from around the UK find themselves spellbound by the mystery of his evocative, spine-tingling songs.

Scott became a huge success when he released the hit single *Elusive*, which was a BBC Radio favourite and earned him a tour with the Foo Fighters, a major recording deal with Island – home to U2, Bob Marley, Nick Drake and others – and won an Ivor Novello Award.

He has since released five albums – including his two most recent, *Home Pt I* and *Home Pt II* – and is embarking on a new record, which has a working title of *Chapters*.

Scott says: "I'm writing at home and have a number of songs. I want to get to 15 or so, and whittle that down to 10. The idea for recording in a church came about because they have such brilliant acoustics. Recording in a unique environment, rather than a traditional studio, also adds a little magic to the performance. There's something that happens when I play a concert, a feeling, or an energy, that the audience and I both feel. The idea is that by recording in a church with sensational acoustics, I can recreate that feeling and commit it to the record."

The record will be released in spring 2018, with an accompanying tour. And Scott, one of the UK's most revered and respected singer-songwriters, is finally recording a stripped-down album featuring only him and a guitar.

## GARDEN

Fans are being given the chance to engage with the recording process by getting regular updates from the artist, through an organisation called Pledge Music.

Pledge Music gives performers who choose not to have a record deal the opportunity to work directly with fans – where they pre-order signed copies of the work, which helps to pay the upfront costs of recording.

Scott adds: "I founded my own record label – Shedio – which is based around the converted garden shed at the bottom of my garden. That's the space where I usually record. The fan-funded model works really well because fans then get the chance to find out about the process while it is still on-going."

Scott remains in the spotlight and was recently asked by the BBC to unveil a commemorative Blue Plaque at the former home of iconic British folk singer Nick Drake, who lived at Tanworth-In-Arden.

Scott was happy to oblige and performed the ceremony alongside fellow singer-songwriter Simon Fowler, best known as frontman with Ocean Colour Scene.

"It was an enormous honour," he says. "There have been a few highlights in my career:

winning an Ivor Novello, presenting John Martyn with a Lifetime Achievement Award in a room full of people like John Martyn and so on. But being asked to unveil the plaque

On a song – Scott won an Ivor Novello in 2007



They get regular updates, which might include messages from me, video updates – all sorts of things.

"Then, when the record is complete, they are the first to receive a signed copy of the new album, which is delivered to their door. It's pretty simple for people to get involved. They just need to go online and search for Pledge Music, then search for Scott Matthews and all of the details appear."

Scott says financing the project is not the most important part of Pledge. The thing that he enjoys best is having direct access to his fans.

"You might wake up one morning and there'll be a message from someone in Paraguay who has just discovered the back catalogue, which is great. Or, alternatively, you might get a fan from somewhere in the UK who is really passionate about the music and can speak articulately about particular songs."

"That really fuels my fire. Having that direct link with the fans, where they can tell me what they think, is a massive boost. And that's one of the things I'm looking forward to as I record my sixth album."

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*I'm very excited to be finally recording a record that's just me and a guitar*

at Nick Drake's home was remarkable. There were little rural paths that he would have walked along. It was easy to marvel at the things that would have gone on in his room, at the records that would have been delivered to his door and so on. It was a real privileged, a very special moment."

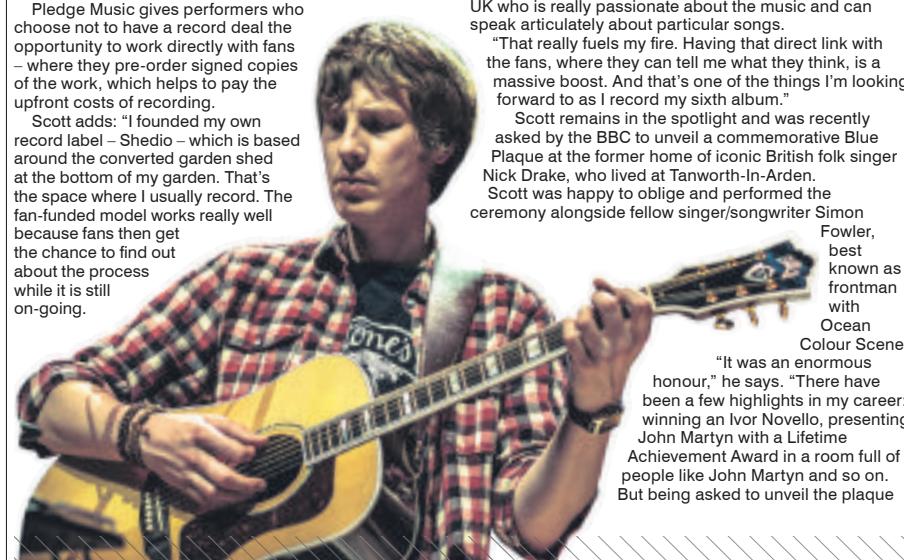
Scott, an avid Wolverhampton Wanderers fan, is looking forward to being back on the road in spring – though eagle-eyed fans might get the chance to see him play a few unannounced shows before then, when he trials new songs.

"You can learn more from a three-minute soundcheck, or by playing a song at a gig, than you can by spending a year writing and refining a song. So I plan to road-test a few of the songs with a small number of gigs this autumn. The record will be finished by December, I'll reflect for a little while and then it will be out in spring. I'm very excited to be finally recording a record that's just me and a guitar. And, having released five albums already, I'm just thrilled to have the opportunity to record and release a sixth."

● Fans who want to pre-order signed copies of Scott Scott's new album can log onto Pledge Music to receive regular updates at: [www.pledgemusic.com/projects/scott-scott-studio-album-six](http://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/scott-scott-studio-album-six)

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Blondie in 2017



## One way or another, Blondie are heart of class

Blondie are back with a new album, Pollinator, and a tour that calls in at Birmingham city centre's Barclaycard Arena on November 13.

The New York band was formed more than 40 years ago and still features original members, iconic frontwoman Debbie Harry, guitarist Chris Stein and drummer Clem Burke, alongside long standing band mates Leigh Foxx (bass), Tommy Kessler (guitar) and Matt Katz-Bohen (keyboard).

Emerging from the stateside punk scene, they became one of the greatest pop bands of the 1970s

and 80s. They still create new music to go alongside such classics as Heart of Glass, Hanging On The Telephone, Sunday Girl, Dreaming, Call Me, Atomic, The Tide Is High, Rapture and Maria.

Eleventh studio album Pollinator, which came out in May, features songs written by Stein and Harry alongside songwriting or studio contributions from former Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr, Sia, Charli XCX, Nick Valensi from The Strokes, Joan Jett, Laurie Anderson, and Dave Sitek from TV On The Radio.

Blondie are also involved in the BEE Connected campaign to raise awareness of the decline in the bee population.

## Brontë classic given Eyre time at Rep

THIS year marks the 170th anniversary of the first publication of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel of gothic romance Jane Eyre.

As part of the celebrations, the National Theatre with Bristol Old Vic are bringing an imaginative new stage adaptation to Birmingham Rep, from September 4 to 16, as part of a nationwide tour.

Brontë's much-loved story is still an inspiration. This dynamic production tells the story of one woman's fight for freedom. From her beginnings as a destitute

orphan, the spirited heroine faces life's obstacles head-on, surviving poverty, injustice and betrayal before taking the ultimate decision to follow her heart.

Director Sally Cookson said "Adapting a novel for the stage is a challenging prospect, especially when that novel is cited as many people's favourite of all time. It is always daunting when you're working on a story which everyone knows so well. It's a story that I love and have enjoyed a close relationship with ever since I was intrigued, as a child, by Orson Welles' black and white melodrama. "I didn't actually read the novel

until I was in my early 20s and I remember thinking while I read it: 'This is a clarion cry for equal opportunities for women, not a story about a passive female'. I was struck by how modern Jane seemed - her spirit and strong will, her peculiar and brilliant mind striving for personal freedom. She was exactly the sort of person I wanted to be."

In this three hour staging Nadia Clifford, pictured, plays Jane Eyre with Tim Delap as Rochester.

See [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk) or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.



## Trespass at the Grand for chills

Following the success of The Woman in Black, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre hosts another ghost story when Trespass is staged from August 15 to 21. In Emlyn Williams' play a widow asks a medium to help make contact with her recently deceased husband. The cast includes Rebecca Wheatley from Casualty, David Callister, pictured, from The Bill, Michelle Morris (The Knock) and Judy Buxton (On The Up). See [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk) or call 01902 429212.



## Rocking all over the Robin with Quo hits

A night of vintage Quo boogie will be heard at Bilston's Robin 2 when the original Status Quo drummer brings John Coghlan's Quo to the Black Country venue. Drawing on the era From Pictures Of Matchstick Men to Rocking All Over The World, this big night out for the demin-clad head nodders will be held next Thursday, August 10. Other highlights at the Robin include The Naked Beatles with Lusty Springfield tomorrow (Friday) which may sound like a dodgy movie but is actually a 60s tribute night. Then it's the MaetLoaf tribute 'Bat Out Of Hell' special on Saturday and Flash, Tribute to Queen, is on August 11. It's the Bilston reggae sunsplash with tributes to Bob Marley and UB40 on August 12. See [therobin.co.uk](http://therobin.co.uk) or call 01902 401211.



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## CHOICE



Billy Connolly

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live**, **11.30 Nadiya's British Food Adventure**, (R) **12.00 Bargain Hunt**, (R) **1.00 BBC News; Weather**, **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer**, (R) **2.00 Film; I Am Bolt**, (2016) Documentary about the life and career of world-record breaking Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, who has won the 100m and 200m gold medals at the last three Olympics. **3.30 The Heroes of Super Saturday**; Jess, Mo & Greg, (R) **4.25 Escape to the Continent**, (R) **5.25 Pointless Celebrities**, (R) **6.10 BBC News**.

**6.20 Regional Programme**.

**6.30 World Athletics Championships 2017**, Gabby Logan presents coverage of the second night of events at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which will include the men's 100m final. Should he have made it through to the final as expected, Usain Bolt will be making his final individual appearance at a major championships and will be looking to bow out while still the fastest man in the world. Plus, medals are decided in the men's discus and long jump, and women's 10,000m, the heptathlon continues with the shot put and 200m, and the women's 1500m semi-finals take place. With analysis from Michael Johnson, Colin Jackson and Denise Lewis.

**10.00 BBC News; Weather**; National Lottery Update.

**10.20 Film; Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie**, (2014) The indomitable Irish matriarch discovers that a plan is afoot by developers to buy the famous Dublin street market where her family has run a fruit and veg stall for generations. Assembling a band of eccentric allies, she plans to fight back, only to realise her daughter is not interested in taking over the family business. Comedy, starring Brenda O'Carroll.

**11.55 Film; I Know What You Did Last Summer**, (1997) Four teenagers accidentally run over a stranger and hide the body rather than inform the authorities, only to find themselves stalked the following year by a shadowy figure who takes great delight in disposing of them in a variety of gruesome ways. Horror, starring Jennifer Love Hewitt.

**1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead**. **1.35 BBC News**.

## BBC2

**6.10 Film**; The Spanish Main, (1945) **7.45 Film**; The Magic Box, (1951) **9.30 World Athletics Championships 2017**, **2.00 Food & Drink**, (R) **2.30 Flog It!**, (R) **3.20 Mastermind**, (R) **3.50 University Challenge**, (R) **4.20 Only Connect**, (R) **4.50 Gardeners' World**, (R) **5.50 The Sweet Makers**; A Victorian Treat.

**6.50 Proms Extra**, Katie Derham, Stuart Skelton, Alison Tyner and Ken Burton discuss Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Plus, a Proms centenary tribute to Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie.

**7.30 Royal Cousins at War**. Part one of two. Documentary examining what impact the relationships between cousins Nicholas II of Russia, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and George V of the United Kingdom had on the outbreak of the First World War. This episode focuses on the story of the emerging divisions and rivalries within the inter-related royal houses of Europe during the 19th century. Featuring contributions by historians Anna Urbach, Miranda Carter and Piers Brendon. Tamzin Greig narrates. (R)

**8.30 Dad's Army**, Corporal Jones finds himself cast adrift during an exercise pitting Mainwaring and his home-front heroes against their arch-rival Captain Square. (R)

**9.00 Billy Connolly: Portrait of a Lifetime**. A programme celebrating the life and career of Billy Connolly, as three Scottish artists each create a new portrait of the comedian and actor.

**10.00 World Athletics Championships 2017**, Gabby Logan presents reaction to and analysis of the second night of events at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

**10.30 Film; What We Did on Our Holiday**, (2014) Three children give away all the secrets of their parents' troubled marriage while visiting their grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Rosamund Pike.

**11.55 Golf; Women's Open Highlights**, Eilidh Barbour presents action from the third day of the event, which this year is staged at Kingsbarns Golf Links in Fife.

**1.00 Film; In the House**, (2012) A teacher encourages a pupil to write about his relationship with a wealthy family, which feeds unhealthy obsessions. Drama, with Fabrice Luchini and Kristin Scott Thomas. **2.40** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV**; Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**, (R) **6.30 Signed Stories**; Share a Story. (R) **6.35 Dino Dan**; Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45 Dino Dan**; Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00 Oddbods**, (R) **7.05 Oddbods**, (R) **7.15 Super 4**, (R) **7.25 Mr Bean: The Animated Series**, (R) **7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series**, (R) **8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go**, (R) **8.25 ITV Racing: The Opening Show**. **10.20 GOK's Lunchbox**, (R) **11.15 1000 Heartbeats**, (R) **12.15 ITV News; Weather**, **12.25 Tipping Point**, (R) **1.30 ITV Racing Live**; Goodwood Festival. Coverage of the fifth and final day of the event. **4.00 The Chase**, (R) **5.00 Little Big Shots USA**.

**6.00 Regional Programme; Weather**.

**6.05 ITV News; Weather**.

**6.15 You've Been Framed! Bites Back**, Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including an angry woman who throws a dart into her husband's leg, an electrolysis accident that delivers a powerful electric shock to an unlucky man's nipple and why teaching a toddler to operate a full-size tractor is a bad idea. (R)

**7.15 Catchphrase**, Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.

**8.00 Film; The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug**, (2013) The Desolation of Smaug continues the epic adventure of Bilbo Baggins and the Company of Dwarves as they travel to the Lonely Mountain to reclaim it from the dragon Smaug. (R)

**10.35 ITV News; Weather**.

**10.50 Film; GoldenEye**, (1995) Spy adventure, with Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean and Izabella Scorupco.

**1.20 Jackpot247**, **3.00 The Hungry Sailors**, (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen**.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10 Tenerife Bluetrail**, **6.40 Motor Sport**; Chateau Impney Hill Climb. **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond**, (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond**, (R) **8.30 Frasier**, (R) **9.30 Frasier**, (R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory**, (R) **10.25 The Big Bang Theory**, (R) **11.55 The Simpsons**, (R) **11.55 The Simpsons**, (R) **12.50 Four in a Bed**, (R) **1.20 Four in a Bed**, (R) **1.55 Four in a Bed**, (R) **2.25 Four in a Bed**, (R) **3.00 Four in a Bed**, (R) **3.30 A Place in the Sun**; **Winter Sun**, (R) **4.35 Big House**, Little House. **5.35 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It**, (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News**.

**7.00 Britain at Low Tide**, Tori Herridge and Alex Langlands set out to document Britain's industrial and natural maritime history, using state-of-the-art technology to comb the nation's exposed coastlines during times of low tide. They first head out to the Northumbrian coastline, to investigate the tragic story of a French fishing trawler that was wrecked off shore in 1913. (R)

**8.00 Paul O'Grady's Hollywood**, New series. The first of three programmes in which the veteran TV presenter delves into the rich vein of cinematic history to find out what it takes to transform a film into a silver-screen masterpiece capable of standing the test of time. Taking in everything from big production musicals to vehicles for enduring screen heroines, Paul reveals what makes celebrated movies so memorable. He begins with classic "weepies", from the early silent melodramas through to James Cameron's Titanic, and hears from Jon Voight, Bernard Cribbins, Celia Johnson and the casts of E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial and Beaches.

**9.00 Film; Red**, (2010) A retired CIA agent survives an assassination attempt and realises something in his past has made him a target. He sets out to reunite the members of his old hit squad to find out who is trying to kill them and why, but in the process, uncovers dangerous secrets. Action thriller, with Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman.

**11.10 Film; American Reunion**, (2012) **11.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA**, (R) **2.05 The Last Leg**, (R) **3.00 Hollyoaks**, **5.05 Selling Houses** with Amanda Lamb, (R) **11.20 Queens of Pop**. A compilation of hit music videos by chart-topping female soloists, highlighting how women have dominated the music industry like never before during the past 10 years.

**12.15 SuperCasino**, **3.10 Royal Funerals**; The Inside Story, (R) **12.15** The Master, (2012) **4.00 Close**.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake**, **10.40 Chinese Food in Minutes**, (R) **10.55 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud**, **11.20 Police Interceptors**, (R) **12.15 Police Interceptors**, (R) **1.15 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun**, (R) **2.10 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun**, (R) **3.10 The Nightmare Next Door**, (R) **4.05 The Nightmare Next Door**, (R) **5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**, (R) **6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**, Agents Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner get caught up in a dispute between a landlord and a tenant who refuses to move out, and Brian O'Shaughnessy and Delroy Anglin chase a £17,000 debt. Meanwhile, in Essex, a couple owe their neighbour £11,000, and on the south coast, debt collection from a Turkish restaurant gets complicated when there is confusion about ownership. (R)

**7.00 Cricket on 5**, England v South Africa. Highlights of the second day's play in the final Test of the four-match series, which took place at Old Trafford in Manchester.

**8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**; **Violent Encounters**, Two enforcement agents make a shocking discovery in a child's bedroom during an eviction, and a debtor gets physical when he is visited over wages owed to a freelancer. (R)

**8.55 5 News Weekend**.

**9.00 Football on 5**; **The Championship**. Highlights from the latest games in the Championship, which included Sunderland v Derby County and Wolverhampton Wanderers v Middlesbrough.

**9.50 Football on 5**; **Goal Rush**. Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, which included Southend United v Blackburn Rovers, and Forest Green Rovers v Barnet.

**10.20 Celebrity Big Brother**. Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.

**11.20 Queens of Pop**. A compilation of hit music videos by chart-topping female soloists, highlighting how women have dominated the music industry like never before during the past 10 years.

**12.15 SuperCasino**, **3.10 Royal Funerals**; The Inside Story, (R) **12.15** The Master, (2012) **4.00 Close**.

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00 Capability Brown's Unfinished Garden**, **8.00 Britain's Treasure Islands**, **9.00 I Know Who You Are**, **11.15 Top of the Pops**; **1984**, (1984) **12.30** From Andy Pandy to Zedebird; **The Golden Age of Children's TV**, **1.30 Slade at the BBC**, **2.30 Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula**, **3.00 Britain's Treasure Islands**, **4.00 Close**.

**ITV2**

**11.30 Take Me Out**, **12.40 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule**, (1991) You've Been Framed! **1.45 Film**; **The Waterboy**, (1998) **2.40 FYI**, **2.45 Film**; **The Waterboy**, (1998) **3.30 Film**; **Yogi Bear**, (2010) **4.30 FYI**, **4.35 Film**; **Yogi Bear**, (2010) **5.10 FYI**, **5.15 Film**; **Nanny McPhee**, (2005) **6.10 FYI**, **6.15 Film**; **Nanny McPhee**, (2005) **7.15 Film**; **Liar**, (1997) **8.15 FYI**, **8.20 Film**; **Liar**, (1997) **9.00 Film**; **Fast & Furious 5**, (2011) **10.05 FYI**, **10.15 Family Guy**, **1.05 Film**; **This Is the End**, (2013) **2.00 FYI**, **2.10 Film**; **This Is the End**, (2013) **3.00 Teleshopping**.

**ITV3**

**12.55 Film**; **Rest in Peace**, **Mrs Columbo**, (1990) **2.55 Lewis**, **7.00 Agatha Christie's Marple**, **9.00 Foyle's War**, **11.00 Law & Order**, **1.55 On the Buses**, **2.20 ITV3 Nightscreen**, **2.30 Teleshopping**.

**ITV4**

**12.15 Film**; **Dunkirk**, (1958) **1.25 FYI**, **Dunkirk**, (1958) **3.00 Film**; **The Alamo**, (1960) **4.00 FYI**, **4.05 Film**; **The Alamo**, (1960) **6.15 Storage Wars**, **7.15 Film**; **Police Academy**, **4: Citizens on Patrol**, (1987) **8.20 FYI**, **8.25 Film**; **Police Academy**, **4: Citizens on Patrol**, (1987) **9.00 Film**; **Terminator 2: Judgment Day**, (1991) **11.45 Film**; **Harry Brown**, (2009) **12.45 FYI**, **12.50 Film**; **Harry Brown**, (2009) **1.00 Road Racing Series**, **2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen**, **3.00 Teleshopping**.

**E4**

**1.05 The Goldbergs**, **3.35 The Big Bang Theory**, **8.00 Don't Tell the Bride**, **9.00 Film**; **Bridesmaids**, (2011) **11.30 Gogglebox**, **1.10 Rude Tube**, **2.15 Tattoo Fixers**, **3.10 Gogglebox**, **3.50 How I Met Your Mother**, **4.40 Rude (sh) Tube Film**.

**11.00 ParaNorman**, (2012) **1.00 The Boxtrolls**, (2014) **2.50 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader**, (2010) **5.05 Carry on Cleo**, (1964) **6.55 Ghostbusters II**, (1989) **9.00 Oblivion**, (2013) **11.25 The Pyramid**, (2014) **1.10 The Master**, (2012) **4.00 Close**.

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# SUNDAY'S TV AUGUST 6

## CHOICE



Diana, Princess of Wales

### Diana: In Her Own Words (Channel 4, 8pm)

Documentary featuring never-before-seen footage of Diana, Princess of Wales, recorded by her speech consultant between 1992 and 1993 as she sought to define her public persona and present her own version of events reported in the press, touching on her marriage and experience of public life. The programme also features in-depth interviews with people close to her.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast, 9.00 BBC News, 10.00 Sunday Morning Live, 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer, (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt, (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather, 1.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out, (R) 1.40 Film: Frozen, (2013) Disney animated fantasy adventure, with the voice of Kristen Bell, 3.10 Escape to the Country, (R) 3.40 Songs of Praise, 4.15 Pointless Celebrities, (R) 5.00 BBC News, 5.20 Regional Programme, 5.30 Countryfile.**

**6.30 World Athletics Championships 2017.** Gabby Logan presents coverage of the third night of events at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Great Britain's Katarina Johnson-Thompson will conclude her bid for gold with the heptathlon when she competes in the 800m, but she was expected to face stiff competition throughout the seven disciplines from Belgium's Olympic champion Nafissatou Thiam. Plus, medals are decided in the women's pole vault, and semi-finals take place in the men's 400m and 110m hurdles. With analysis from Michael Johnson, Colin Jackson and Denise Lewis, and commentary by Steve Cram, Andrew Cotter, Brendan Foster and Steve Backley, and reports from Ore Oduba and Phil Jones. Coverage continues on BBC2.

**9.00 Poldark.** Sir Francis places Ross in charge of a group of volunteers to defend the Cornish coast after Prudie and Tholly catch sight of French ships on the horizon. George returns from parliament and is outraged to discover that Drake is living in the smoky on the edge of Trenwith land. However, Tom Harry is only too happy to take on the task of making sure he does not remain there for long. Emma struggles to reconcile her feelings for Sam with their religious differences, and Hugh continues to court Demelza in secret. Last in the series.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 MOTD: Community Shield Highlights.** Chelsea vs Arsenal. Action from the traditional curtain-raiser to the top-flight campaign.

**11.15 Film: The Recruit.** (2003) Thriller, starring Al Pacino and Colin Farrell.

**1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead, 1.10 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.20 The Instant Gardener, (R) 7.05 Gardeners' World, (R) 8.05 The Beechgrove Garden, 8.35 Countryfile, (R) 9.30 World Athletics Championships 2017, 5.00 Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney, (R)**

**6.00 Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge.** Part one of two. The naturalist leads a team of rock climbers across Venezuela's tepuis – sheer-sided mountains surrounded by jungle. In the first episode, he attempts an ascent of a rockface that has never been climbed previously to discover what kind of animals live at the summit. However, to get there he will have to brave wildlife, rapids and a run-in with a rickety biplane. (R)

**7.00 Inside the Factory.** Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey visit factories to find out how household staples are made and Ruth Goodman examines their history. (R)

**8.00 Secrets of Silicon Valley.** Part one of two. Jamie Bartlett investigates how technology companies are shaping the future of the world, and the potential negative consequences of the drive towards progress.

**9.00 World Athletics Championships 2017.** Gabby Logan presents further coverage of the third night of events at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, including the women's 100m final, which was won by Jamaica's Olympic champion Elaine Thompson two years ago. Plus, the men's shot put final concludes, and double Olympic champion David Rudisha is expected to be involved in the men's 800m semi-finals. With analysis from Michael Johnson, Colin Jackson and Denise Lewis, commentary by Steve Cram, Andrew Cotter, Brendan Foster and Steve Backley, and reports from Ore Oduba.

**10.30 Gareth Thomas: Hate in the Beautiful Game.** Former Wales and Lions rugby union captain Gareth Thomas investigates what is preventing gay footballers from coming out, talking to players, fans and managers in a bid to find out.

**11.30 Golf: Women's Open Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the fourth and final day.

**12.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile, (R) 1.25 Holby City, (R) 2.25 This Is BBC Two.**

## ITV

**6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids, 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids, (R) 6.20 Sooty, (R) 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story, (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures, (R) 7.00 Oddbods, (R) 7.05 Oddbods, (R) 7.15 Super 4, (R) 7.30 NinjaGo, Rebcoated, (R) 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go, (R) 8.25 ITV News, 8.30 Weekend, 9.25 Judge Rinder, (R) 10.20 Long Lost Family, (R) 11.20 Love Your Garden, (R) 12.20 ITV News, Weather, 12.25 James Martin's French Adventure, (R) 12.55 Rebound, (R) 1.15 Tipping Point, (R) 2.55 Bear Grylls Survival School, (R) 3.25 Film: The Living Daylights, (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton.**

**6.00 Regional Programme; Weather, 6.15 ITV News; Weather.**

**6.30 The Chase Celebrity Special.** Phil Daniels, Janette Manrara, Isabel Hodgins and Roy Hudd answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.

**7.30 Film: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.** (2009) The young wizard is given the task of uncovering the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past as the evil sorcerer's henchmen cause havoc in both the magical and Muggle worlds. With the help of headmaster Dumbledore, Harry ventures into the memories of those who knew the Dark Lord during his early years, hoping to gain an insight into the secret behind his apparent immortality. However, Voldemort's influence extends much closer to home than expected, as Harry's rival Malfoy is chosen to carry out a sinister mission. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

**10.25 ITV News; Weather.**

**10.40 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories.** Barrister Robert Rinder reveals the story of a gang of criminals who attempted to steal the world's most perfectly formed diamond from the Millennium Dome in November 2000. (R)

**11.40 Take Me Out.** A fitness instructor, a pianist, a research executive and a construction worker submit themselves for approval in front of Paddy McGuinness's panel of 30 single ladies. (R)

**12.40 Jackpot247, 3.00 Motorsport UK, 3.50 ITV Nightscreen, 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show, (R)**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00 Kirstie's Vintage Gems, (R) 6.10 Last Man Standing, 6.35 Cycling: Gigante De Piedra, 7.00 Motor Sport: Arroyo Road Race Build-Up, 7.30 Motor Sport: Arroyo Road Race 2017, 8.30 Fraiser, (R) 9.00 Fraiser, (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch, 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces, 12.30 The Simpsons, (R) 2.30 The Simpsons, (R) 3.00 UEFA Women's Euro 2017: The Final Live, Coverage of the showpiece match (kick-off 4.00pm).**

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 The Mystery of the Crossrail Skulls.** Documentary examining the discovery of dozens of Roman-era skulls by engineers working beneath London's Liverpool Street station. The remains have been identified as dating back to Roman times, but it has yet to be determined who these people were and how their heads ended up buried on the site. Archaeologists examine the bones for evidence of the various theories that have been suggested, questioning whether the skulls belonged to gladiators, executed rebels or the victims of a massacre, or perhaps part of a grisly ritual. (R)

**8.00 Diana: In Her Own Words.** Documentary featuring never-before-seen footage of Diana, Princess of Wales, recorded by her speech consultant between 1992 and 1993 as she sought to define her public persona and present her own version of events reported in the press, touching on her marriage and experience of public life. The programme also features in-depth interviews with people close to her.

**9.50 Film: The King's Speech.** (2010) The younger son of George V struggles to cope with an uncontrollable stammer, prompting his wife to enlist the aid of an eccentric Australian speech therapist. The support and friendship of the doctor prove invaluable when a crisis places the repressed prince on the throne, just as the outbreak of the Second World War leaves the country in need of a strong king. Oscar-winning fact-based drama, starring Colin Firth.

**12.00 Film: The Anomaly, (2014) 1.40 60 Days in Jail, (R) 2.30 Location, Location, Location, (R) 3.25 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb, (R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! Poppy Cat, 6.10 Little Princess, (R) 6.25 Mr Men, (R) 6.35 Milkshake! Monkey, (R) 6.40 Milkshake! Bopping About, (R) 6.45 Simon, (R) 6.50 Peppa Pig, (R) 6.55 Wisper, (R) 7.05 Bob the Builder, (R) 7.15 Fireman Sam, (R) 7.25 Olly the Little White Van, (R) 7.30 Olly the Little White Van, (R) 7.35 Paw Patrol, (R) 7.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines, (R) 8.20 Noddy, Toyland Detective, (R) 8.40 Floogals, (R) 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) 9.05 Shimmer and Shine, (R) 9.15 Digby Dragon, (R) 9.35 Peppa Pig, (R) 9.45 Peppa Pig, (R) 9.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) 10.10 Wanda and the Alien, (R) 10.20 Football on 5: The Championship, (R) 11.05 Football on 5: Goal Rush, (R) 11.30 Film: Cheaper By the Dozen 2, (2005) 1.20 The Royals: Young, Rich & Famous, (R) 1.25 Inside Buckingham Palace: The Queen's Year, (R) 3.15 Inside Buckingham Palace, (R) 4.15 Inside Buckingham Palace, (R) 5.10 Film: Dirty Dancing, (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.**

**7.00 Cricket on 5, England v South Africa.** Highlights of the third day's play in the final Test of the four-match series, which took place at Old Trafford in Manchester.

**7.55 5 News Weekend.**

**8.00 Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of internet videos featuring fathers doing bizarre things, including a showcase of the world's most ridiculous dad dancing and some DIY dentistry using a helicopter to remove a loose tooth. With contributions from comedians Ellie Taylor, Angela Barnes and Dave Spikey, (R)

**9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

**10.00 The Last Days of Patrick Swayze.** Forensic pathologist Dr Jason Poyne-Jones examines the death of the movie star in 2009 from pancreatic cancer, a condition that had left him all but unrecognisable.

**11.00 Film: Point Break, (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves.**

**11.15 SuperCasino, 3.10 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun, 4.00 The Wrights That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant, (R) 5.25 On the Buses 5.50 ITV3 Nightscreen**

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00 BBC Proms 2017 8.30** The Richard Burton Series 9.00 Frank Skinner on George Formby 10.00 Babs 11.30 Timeshift: Bountiful, Beehives and Bobs – The Hairstyles That Shaped Britain 12.30 Captain Brown's Unfinished Garden 1.30 Timeshift: How to Be a Lady – An Elegant History 2.30 Frank Skinner on George Formby 3.00 Close

**ITV2**

1.05 Mr Bean 2.15 You've Been Framed! Gold A to Z of Animals 3.20 Film: Planet 51 (2009) 4.20 FYI Daily 4.25 Film: Planet 51 (2009) 5.10 Film: A Bug's Life (1998) 6.10 FYI Daily 6.15 Film: A Bug's Life (1998) 7.15 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) 8.15 FYI Daily 8.20 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) 10.00 Family Guy 11.55 American Dad! 12.50 The Cleveland Show 1.50 Viral Tap 2.30 TeleShopping

**ITV3**

1.45 The Darling Buds of May 12.55 Film: Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (1993) 2.50 Wycliffe 3.55 Foyle's War 6.00 Lewis 8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Law & Order: UK 12.00 Wire in the Blood 2.00 The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes 3.45 May the Best House Win 5.25 On the Buses 5.50 ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

2.10 Film: The Alamo (1960) 4.20 Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) 5.20 FYI Daily 5.25 Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) 6.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special 7.05 Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) 8.10 FYI Daily 8.15 Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) 9.00 Film: Cliffhanger (1993) 10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film: Cliffhanger (1993) 11.10 Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) 12.10 FYI Daily 12.15 Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) 1.20 Crash Global 2.15 Hogan's Heroes 2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen

**E4**

12.05 Born in Chelsea: Baby Steps 1.05 Kevin Can Wait 1.35 New Girl 2.35 The Goldbergs 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Night at the Museum (2006) 10.10 Don't Tell the Bride 11.15 Tattoo Fixers on Holiday 12.20 Gogglebox 1.10 Rude Tube 2.15 First Dates 3.10 How I Met Your Mother 3.35 Hollyoaks

**Film4**

11.00 Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) 1.00 Short Circuit (1986) 3.00 The Borrowers (1997) 4.40 Small Soldiers (1998) 6.50 GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) 9.00 Child 44 (2015) 11.40 The A-Team (2010) 2.00 Wild Bill (2011) 4.00 Close

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## FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**A Healthy Place to Die: The Gourmet Detective, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
Charming culinary expert Henry Ross is invited to give a speech at a food conference at a luxury resort, but when a journalist guest goes missing, and later turns up dead, Henry once again finds himself joining forces with no-nonsense police detective Maggie Price to solve the crime. Crime comedy sequel, starring Dylan Neal and Brooke Burns. (2015)

**TUESDAY**  
**Spirit Riders, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A rebellious teenager is arrested and for her punishment is sent to an equine therapy camp, where she forms a connection with a spirited thoroughbred horse that she helps to train with the help of the ranch's no-nonsense owner. Family drama, starring Alexandria DeBerry, C Thomas Howell, Lance Henriksen and Olivia Osteen. (2015)



Strictly Ballroom, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Broken Trust, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
An attorney prepares to take on the biggest case of her career against a major pharmaceutical company, only for the lawyer who taught her everything she knows to be kidnapped. She enlists the aid of her police officer ex-husband in rescuing her mentor, while still ensuring a just outcome to the trial. Thriller, starring Laura Vandervoort. (2012)

**THURSDAY**  
**Viva Las Vegas, BBC2, 2.55pm**  
A charismatic racing driver arrives in the city to prepare for its first grand prix. Unfortunately, his car has no engine, so to make the money to buy one he takes a job as a casino waiter. However, he loses focus when he falls in love, leaving a rival with the means to steal the race and his girl. Musical, starring Elvis Presley. (1964)

**FRIDAY**  
**Strictly Ballroom, BBC1, 11.05pm**  
A ballroom dancer, shunned for his unconventional style, tries to win a championship title with the aid of an awkward novice. Australian comedy, with Paul Mercurio and Tara Morice. (1992)

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## Robin's theory takes the inquiry in a new direction

**T**hanks to her roles in *Mad Men*, the original series of *Top of the Lake* and *The Handmaid's Tale*, Elisabeth Moss can claim to have starred in some of the most acclaimed TV shows of the past decade. But looking at her impressive CV, some viewers may wonder if after all that weighty drama, she ever fancies doing something a little bit lighter, like a wacky sitcom.

It seems not – she apparently only signed up for *Top of the Lake: China Girl* on the understanding that it would be even darker than the first series.

She explains that when writer and director Jane Campion asked her if she would be interested in reprising the role of detective Robin Griffin: "I said I would love to, but it would need to be more challenging than season one, otherwise there would be no point. I remember saying, 'I just want her to be challenged,' and thinking... how Robin could be challenged, what she might be going through."

And it seems Campion did not

disappoint her. Moss says: "Without spoiling anything, the thing that we reveal in the flashback and some things that have happened over the last four years to Robin have put her in this really, really dark place. She's not had an easy life, this girl. So she starts out in Season 2 in this much darker place, and really messed up, so when I was reading it for the first time I was like, yes, yes, yes, yes!"

But it wasn't just the prospect of playing someone deeply troubled and miserable that attracted Moss to the part – there was also the chance to work with Campion again.

The actress says: "There's nobody like Jane. I've had the privilege of working with some very talented and amazing people, both well known and not well known, and there's something about the way that she speaks to you and the way that she guides you on set that isn't like anyone else."

"She has this very in-tune way of guiding you through a scene. She'll say something that makes you go,

"Oh, I didn't think about it that way," or she'll say 'this is your playground sweetie. Just have fun.'

However, the characters don't appear to be having much fun in this week's episode as Robin's investigation into the murder of 'China Girl' takes a revealing new turn.

Meanwhile, Julia and Pyke launch an investigation of their own into Puss, the man who plans to marry their teenage daughter. When their findings lead to a public confrontation, Puss storms out – and Mary follows him.

Pyke and Julia are forced to turn to Robin, who begins to discover just how complex motherhood can be. Moss says: "This season is about being a mother and a parent, and I think it's going from the very strong theme of season one to an even stronger theme in season two, with all of these plot lines being connected around this central idea. But done in a brilliantly subtle way, which is believable."



Top of the Lake: China Girl, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Eden: Paradise Lost, Channel 4, 10pm**

It sounds like the premise of a satirical comedy – 23 people sign up for a reality series about creating a new society and spend a year in isolation in a remote part of Britain, unaware that the channel only showed four episodes and then stopped airing the footage. However, it seems the reports from earlier this year claiming that this was the fate of Channel 4's *Eden* project were very wide of the mark, as Channel 4 is now showing us what really happened. Stripped across the week, the footage shows how the dream turned into a nightmare for the residents of Eden – two people had already left three months into the project, and by the summer of 2016, hunger and divisions had firmly set in, as boatman Anton and carpenter Raph built a winter camp in the woods.

**TUESDAY**  
**Trust Me, BBC1, 9pm**

Some TV addicts may wonder how long Jodie Whittaker's new series sat on the shelf before that big announcement was made the other week. Yes, the one about her becoming the first official female Doctor Who. While the internet went into meltdown,

canny BBC bosses scheduled this new drama, and Ms Whittaker, as usual, is on top form, here playing nurse Cath Hardacre. Driven to desperate measures, she steals the identity of her best friend, an A&E doctor and begins a new life in Edinburgh as Dr Ally Sutton. Blake Harrison from *The Inbetweeners* also stars.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**My Family, Partition and Me: India 1947, BBC1, 9pm**

Anita Rani tells the emotional stories of four different families - Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and British colonial - caught up in the violence during the Partition of India, as they travel for the first time to the homes in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh that their families fled in terror. Binita Kane arrives in Bangladesh to investigate what happened when her Hindu father Bim had to flee his ancestral village as a boy. Meanwhile, Mandy Duke heads to Calcutta, scene of some of the worst Partition violence, to uncover the amazing story of her grandfather Arthur Wise. Plus, we also follow Asad Ali Syed and his grandson

Sameer, two British Muslims with Pakistani heritage, as they journey to the Indian town of Ambala, to search for the house where Asad was born. Finally, Anita investigates the events that led to her own grandfather's first wife, children and her great grandfather losing their lives.



Teach My Pet To Do That, Friday, ITV, 8pm

third Chihuahua, and psychic Della as she welcomes the big-breed Leonberger she fell in love with. But as the small puppy grows, she finds herself completely out of her depth.

**FRIDAY**  
**Teach My Pet To Do That, ITV, 8pm**

New series. Animal lover and comedian Alexander Armstrong is joined by a team of specialist pet trainers as they teach a range of animals and pets to pull off incredible tricks. In the first episode, the host welcomes a dachshund labrador cross called Eric and a miniature horse call Aslan, as trainers Jo-Rosie Haffenden and Nando Brown attempt to teach them how to answer a door to the cue of a doorbell. Elsewhere in the programme, the trainers hit the road and attempt to train River the cat to ride on the back of Moss the dog.

**World Athletics Championships 2017, BBC1, 8.30pm**

Gabby Logan presents further coverage of the eighth night at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Defending champions are expected to go head-to-head with Olympic gold medallists in both the women's 200m and 3,000m steeplechase.

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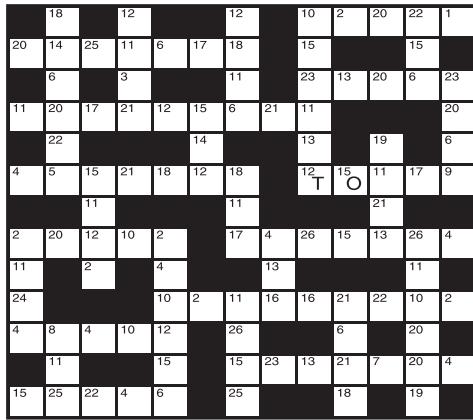
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## BRAIN GYM

No.441

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

X	2	3	T	4	5	G	K	6	Y	7	R	V	M	N	O	E	S
A	15	16	I	17	18	F	L	19	J	20	P	U	Z	B	C	W	D

## Quiz

- In which ocean did the mutiny on the Bounty take place?
- What type of animal is a marmoset?
- Which religion is divided between the Digambaras and the Svetambaras?
- In which country is the Grande Dixence Dam?
- Of which country is Cape York Peninsula the most northerly mainland point?
- Of which rodent is the guinea pig a species?
- Which town is the administrative centre of Cornwall?
- What do we call the biennial Pastinaca sativa?
- Who is best known as the author of the Doctor books?
- The troy pound is used for weighing what?

## Double Crossword

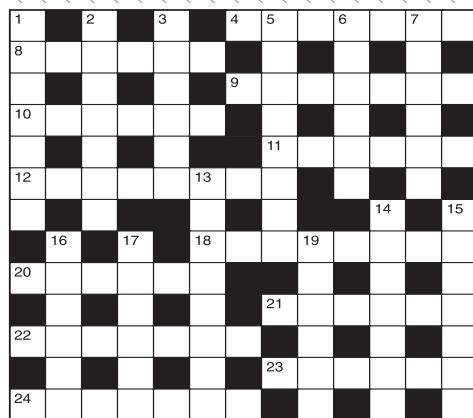
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues: Across

1	14
2	15 O
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	T
13	25
14	26

- They accompany wild Cortes to the south (7)
- Charged for being drunk (6)
- A politician after alternative rhetorical expression (7)
- What the watch did is marked as correct (6)
- The top of a sugar-coated cake? (3-3)
- Not in favour of a little work modelling (8)
- Fixed a fight and attacked (3,5)
- Isn't able to keep a girl in bed (6)
- Top grade fish in poor condition (6)
- About to do some arithmetic and tell a story (7)
- Onslaught to put new life into the battery (6)
- Put one's foot down and made an impression (7)
- One tail wagging in high spirits! (7)
- Crazy internationals are tearaways (7)
- Removes any inclination (6)
- Seeing about painting being put up in a right line (8)
- Not in the clique for a start (6)
- Sailor Brown checked material (6)
- The cane isn't used for example (8)
- Artistic work by the shearer? (7)
- Cause amazement when rags get out of order (7)
- Half last camping gear in lying out of sight (6)
- Where the schoolboy may be found to be a tell-tale (6)
- Onslaught to put new life into the battery (6)
- Put one's foot down and made an impression (7)
- What attracts the moth to settle (6)

## Down



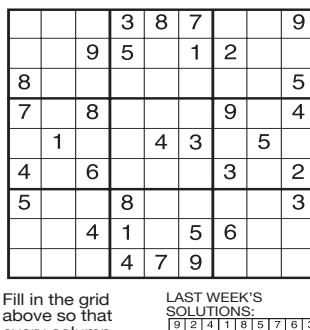
## Quick Clues: Across

- Diaphragm (7)
- Accustomed (6)
- Mysterious (7)
- Dried grape (6)
- Easement (6)
- Break (8)
- Unmindful (8)
- For each (6)
- Interior (6)
- Views (7)
- Seem (6)
- Vision (6)
- Brittle (7)

- Real (8)
- Subject to (6)
- Delicate (6)
- Vast change (8)
- Shortfall (7)
- Leave off (6)
- A meal (6)

1. Diaphragm (7)
2. Melodious (7)
3. Portray (6)
4. An attendant (7)
5. Rest assured. Down: 2 Map; 3 Lawns; 4 Centre; 5 Artist; 6 Gasometer; 7 Sharp answer; 8 Parting shot; 12 Offensive; 15 Iron out; 17 Stairs; 19 Pillar; 21 Lee.
5. Real (8)
6. Subject to (6)
7. Delicate (6)
8. Vast change (8)
9. Rye; 10 Attention; 11 Fleet; 13 Emanate; 14 Choice; 16 Adviser; 18 Emulate; 19 Toned; 20 Constrain; 21 Fen; 22 Depredatory.
10. Break (8)
11. Unmindful (8)
12. Shortfall (7)
13. Leave off (6)
14. Sharp answer; 15 Chatter; 17 Regard; 19 Tenet; 21 Far.

## Sudoku



FILL IN THE GRID ABOVE SO THAT EVERY COLUMN, EVERY ROW AND EACH OF THE 3x3 BOXES CONTAINS ALL THE DIGITS FROM 1 TO 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Small change; 9 Hippo; 10 Went to the 11 Roads; 13 Rush mat; 14 Affair; 16 Sexton; 18 Sent out; 19 Paris; 20 Editorial; 21 Leo; 22 Rest assured. Down: 2 Map; 3 Lawns; 4 Centre; 5 Artist; 6 Gasometer; 7 Sharp answer; 8 Parting shot; 12 Offensive; 15 Iron out; 17 Stairs; 19 Pillar; 21 Lee.

QUIICK - Across: 1 Substantial; 9 Rye; 10 Attention; 11 Fleet; 13 Emanate; 14 Choice; 16 Adviser; 18 Emulate; 19 Toned; 20 Constrain; 21 Fen; 22 Depredatory.

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

84669126  
43728  
573826

gives a poet,  
gives a second poet,  
gives a third poet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Why The Restaurant is a safe bet

If you felt peckish in a casino a few years ago, you were faced with two choices, cheese toastie or a sandwich.

If you were lucky it may have been accompanied by a limp wet salad garnish. And you probably had to wait between 30 to 45 minutes to get the attention of one of the two waitresses tasked with serving drinks on the floor to the big gamblers.

And when you did make awkward eye contact, you were charged £2.50 for the privilege of receiving two heavily buttered white slices of nothingness.

Boy, how things have changed... casinos today are as much about food, shopping and entertainment as they are about the gambling... and Birmingham's Broadway Casino is no different.

## THRIVING

Nestled away in the popular Broadway Plaza, the casino has been a thriving venue for many years, often attracting some of the world's biggest names in poker during its special festivals.

For first timers, the set up may seem intimidating as you're met outside by two doormen, before showing your ID in order to gain entry through the barrier.

But once you're in, the sheer size and elegance of the building blows you away. A huge private bar on the left, plush sofas to recline on and take a break from the action and of course plenty of casino tables, offering a host of different games.

I am all too familiar with the layout having enjoyed plenty of nights of Texas Hold'em over the years, but I was very intrigued to try out the new Italian restaurant, ironically called 'The Restaurant'.

This new reboot replaced a slightly strange Chinese/Italian/Indian and Thai fusion restaurant called Mirage, that offered plenty of options without really having a true

Toasted bread with garlic, chopped tomato and basil



Try The Restaurant at Broadway Casino



identity. That cannot be said of 'The Restaurant,' whose mission statement promised 'a taste of Italy renowned for its fresh ingredients and rustic meals'.

The menu was a breath of fresh air, no more Caesar salad followed by tandoori chicken or Vietnamese noodles – this was crisp, elegant and most important of all, simple.

The best Italian food is simple, the freshness of the ingredients are there to speak for themselves.

Prices appeared very reasonable and nobody will not be disappointed with the selections on offer.

I decided on the 'Bruschetta Basilico,' which to you and me is toasted bread, with garlic, chopped tomatoes and basil. The dish was served by an authentic Italian named Roberto, who I came to learn was the manager of the restaurant.

Happily done I awaited my main dish of the evening, the sea bass. Yes, I could have gone a little more indulgent, but I wanted to see exactly how they executed a delicate piece of fish on a busy Friday night.

When it arrived, I was not disappointed. Visually stunning, their presentation was spot on and I was

delighted they showcased the whole fish rather than two boneless fillets that often look pretty sad on the plate.

Roberto (full name Roberto Santolamazza) hails from Rome. No fake Italian accent here, he was the real deal and his warmth and passion for the food made the experience all the better.

I was too full to have a dessert, but the plates flying out on the other tables looked sublime.

I will certainly be returning and the best thing about leaving is that you can win your meal on the way out!

NATHAN JUDAH

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## BATH CHRISTMAS MARKET & Blenheim Palace

Departing Saturday 9 December 2017

### PRICE INCLUDES...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Reading/Wiltshire area hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Visit, including admission (value £24.90), to Blenheim Palace
- ✓ Visit to Bath Christmas Market

2 days,  
only by coach  
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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Four-bedroomed executive home has double garage

An outstanding and very well presented executive detached family home in Watermead Grange, Brownhills, Walsall, comes with a double garage.

It is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £299,950. It is situated on a popular development and is close to all local amenities, shops and schools.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a through entrance hallway, a guest WC, a lounge, a dining room and a family kitchen diner. To the first floor there are four double bedrooms, a family bathroom and an en-suite to the master. Outside there are landscaped gardens to the front, a double garage and a private driveway.

In more detail the through hallway has stairs off to the first floor and a guest WC off. The lounge overlooks the front. It also has French doors opening out to the rear garden. The dining room has windows to both the front and side elevations.

With an extensive range of wall, base and drawer units, the family kitchen/diner has an integral double oven, hob with an extractor over, a built-in dishwasher, fridge freezer and dishwasher. It also has ample room for a dining table and further appliances and doors to the garden and to the side.

Off the first floor, the master bedroom overlooks the side and rear and has an en-suite shower room. Bedroom two has views over the rear garden, as does bedroom three. Bedroom four overlooks the frontage of the property.

The family bathroom has a panelled bath with a glazed screen and a shower over, a pedestal sink, low level WC and tiling to bathing areas.

Being beautifully landscaped with designated areas, the rear garden has two patio seating/dining areas and provisions for a shed. The rear garden is fully enclosed with gated access to the front elevation and further gated access to the rear leading to the driveway and garages. The double garage has two up and over doors.

BROWNHILLS £299,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Webbs Estate Agents

TEL: 01922 663399

EMAIL: [sales@webbsestateagents.co.uk](mailto:sales@webbsestateagents.co.uk)

### KEY FEATURES

Detached executive home

4 double bedrooms

Bathroom/en-suite/guest WC

Double garage

Close to local amenities



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## Semi-detached family property for sale with no chain

RUSHALL  
£225,000

This extremely spacious Edwardian semi-detached family home in Lichfield Road, Rushall, Walsall, lies in an excellent location, close to bus routes and all the usual local amenities.

It is for sale through Marrion & Co at £225,000 with no chain.

Having picturesque open fields to the rear, the gas centrally heated and majority PVCu double glazed accommodation provides scope for improvement.

It briefly comprises a canopy porch, entrance hall/stairs, guests cloaks/WC, three reception rooms, a fitted kitchen, a utility room, four first floor bedrooms (one currently used as a kitchen), a bathroom/WC, attic room, ample forecourt parking and mature well-screened gardens.

Set well back from the road, with ample off-road parking, the property is accessible for main bus routes, shops and retail outlets, together with schools and places of public worship.

For further information contact Marrion & Co on 01922 404446 or visit [www.marrion.co.uk](http://www.marrion.co.uk)



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Well-presented four-bedroom detached home in a popular location

WALSALL  
£265,000      >>>

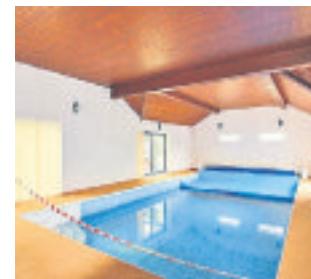
This well presented four-bedroomed detached home in Woodruff Way, Walsall, lies in a popular location, close to local amenities, shops and schools.

It is for sale through Webbs at £265,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance porch, a through hallway, a guest WC, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a utility room, four bedrooms, a bathroom and an en-suite. Externally there is a driveway, landscaped gardens and a garage.

In more detail the property is smartly decorated throughout in neutral shades. The kitchen features modern light-wood-effect units with complementary working surfaces, splash-back tiling and matching flooring. The lounge has a bay window and a feature, focal point fireplace.

For further details call  
Webbs on 01922 663399.



Versatile bungalow with spacious accommodation has indoor pool

BLOXWICH  
£299,950      <<<

A versatile detached bungalow off Stafford Road in Bloxwich has spacious accommodation including two ground floor bedrooms and loft room/bedroom three.

Also with an indoor swimming pool, it is for sale through Skitts at £299,950 with no chain.

It has a porch, a reception hall, a lounge with a bow window and feature fireplace, a dining room/bedroom, a principal bathroom, dining kitchen, a ground floor bedroom, en-suite shower room, indoor swimming pool, shower room/WC and a conservatory. There is also a garage and garden and a loft bedroom.

The kitchen includes a cooker, hob and extractor fan. The ground floor bedroom has plenty of storage and a door to the indoor swimming pool and an en-suite shower.

Call 01922 478104.



**Semi-detached property has been improved and extended**

**DUDLEY**  
£149,950

<<<

Having been improved and extended, this traditional semi-detached house in Old Park Road, Dudley, is a well proportioned three-bedroomed property with ample off-road parking and a good-sized rear garden.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £149,950.

It has an entrance hall, a through living room with two separate living areas, an extended kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The house is situated in a popular and convenient locality between Sedgley and Dudley and is within close proximity of a wide range of amenities.

The property is well presented and offers well proportioned accommodation with majority gas central heating and upvc double glazing.

For further information call Wakeman on 01384 459999.



**Spacious family home has four bedrooms**

**DUDLEY**  
£258,000

A rare opportunity to acquire such a stunning property in a great area, this spacious and attractively presented home in Mansion Close, Earls Keep, Dudley, comes with four generous bedrooms, one with en-suite.

It is for sale through Taylors at £258,000.

The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, a fitted cloakroom/WC, a lounge with a bay window, a separate dining room, a re-fitted kitchen, utility section, four generous bedrooms (having a re-appointed shower room en-suite) re-appointed bathroom, a garage and a garden.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact 01902 880888.

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NO CHAIN. Must be viewed.

  
**£255,000**

4 Bedroom Property in Walsall WS5 4RE.  
Spacious well-presented link detached house with porch, entrance hall, kitchen-diner, well maintained rear garden.



## Bungalow in need of some general updating

OLDBURY  
£220,000

Surrounded by established and mature gardens, 133 New Birmingham Road, Oldbury, is a detached two bedroomed bungalow in need of general updating and decoration.

Having good sized accommodation, it is for sale through Tom Giles at £220,000 with no chain. In a good position for commuting, it has an established and mature tiered garden with footpath approach and crazy paved patio to the front.

It has a vestibule to an entrance hall, front and rear sitting rooms, a kitchen with appliances, a side lobby, cloakroom/WC, two bedrooms and a bathroom, detached garage and a driveway and gardens.

Contact the agents on 0121 522 6171.



Five-bedroom detached family property enjoys views of valley

WEST BROMWICH

£330,000

<<<

A simply stunning five-bedroomed detached house in St Augustus Close, West Bromwich, is for sale through Paul Dubberley at a new price of £330,000.

A property which overlooks the popular 'Sandwell Valley', this good size family home has been altered and improved and is presented to an extremely high standard.

It has a porch, an entrance hallway, a lounge, a sitting room (which could potentially be used as bedroom five), a downstairs shower room, kitchen/diner, an orangery and an upstairs family bathroom.

The property also has an en-suite shower room to the master bedroom, majority gas central heating and majority double glazing, a garden and parking.

Contact Paul Dubberley on 0121 525 2111.

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Paul Marrion - Partner



**Kathy Marrion - Partner**

<p><b>SSTC Similar Required</b></p> <p><b>Pershore Close</b> Bloxwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi Detached House</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>PVCu double glazed (where specified)</li> <li>Front Lounge, Kitchen</li> <li>Rear Dining Room, Sun Room</li> <li>3 Bedrooms, Shower Room/WC</li> <li>Rear Garden.</li> <li>No Onward Chain</li> </ul> <p><b>£110,000</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - C</b></p> <p><b>Brookhill Close</b> Willenhall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi detached house</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>PVCu double glazed</li> <li>Lounge, dining kitchen</li> <li>2 bedrooms, bathroom WC</li> <li>Parking</li> <li>Gardens</li> <li>NO ONWARD CHAIN</li> </ul> <p><b>£105,000</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - TBC</b></p> <p><b>Ryle Street</b> Bloxwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completely Refurbished Semi-Detached House</li> <li>Three Bedrooms</li> <li>Open plan Lounge/Kitchen</li> <li>Bathroom, Driveway</li> <li>Large rear garden</li> <li>Double Glazing</li> <li>Gas Central Heating</li> <li>No Onward Chain</li> </ul> <p><b>£144,950</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - E</b></p> <p><b>SSTC Similar Required</b></p> <p><b>Woodland Drive</b> Cheslyn Hay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid town house</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>Partially PVCu double glazed</li> <li>Lounge, dining room, study, kitchen</li> <li>3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC</li> <li>Gardens, parking</li> <li>NO ONWARD CHAIN</li> <li>Parking</li> </ul> <p><b>£150,000</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>High Hill</b> Essington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victorian mid terraced house of character</li> <li>gas central heating, double glazing</li> <li>Front and Rear Reception Rooms</li> <li>2 Bedrooms &amp; further Loft Room,</li> <li>Bathroom/WC</li> <li>Rear Off Road Parking,</li> <li>Rear Gardens.</li> </ul> <p><b>£185,000</b></p>
<p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Vicarage Road</b> Wednesfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached bungalow</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>PVCu double glazed</li> <li>Lounge, kitchen</li> <li>3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC</li> <li>Garage, drive</li> <li>Gardens</li> <li>NO ONWARD CHAIN</li> </ul> <p><b>£200,000</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - C</b></p> <p><b>Daw End Lane</b> Rushall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern First Floor duplex Apartment</li> <li>Double glazing &amp; Gas Central Heating</li> <li>One Bedroom</li> <li>Kitchen</li> <li>Bathroom</li> <li>Must Be Viewed</li> <li>Rear Garden</li> <li>NO ONWARD CHAIN</li> </ul> <p><b>£68,950</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Water Reed Grove, Leamore</b> Walsall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Floor Apartment</li> <li>Electrically heated</li> <li>PVCu double glazed</li> <li>Lounge/dining room, kitchen</li> <li>2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC</li> <li>Allocated parking</li> <li>Communal Gardens</li> <li>NO ONWARD CHAIN</li> </ul> <p><b>£85,000</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Coalpool Lane, Coalpool</b> Walsall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi detached house</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>PVCu double glazed</li> <li>Lounge, dining room</li> <li>Kitchen</li> <li>3 bedrooms</li> <li>Bathroom/WC</li> <li>Small Garage/ Store Room, Rear Garden, Driveway</li> </ul> <p><b>£124,950</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Rating - C</b></p> <p><b>Stamping Way</b> Bloxwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three storey detached house</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>PVCu double glazed</li> <li>Lounge, kitchen, dining room</li> <li>3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC</li> <li>Garage</li> <li>Parking</li> <li>Gardens</li> </ul> <p><b>£200,000</b></p>
 <p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Dalton Road</b> Walsall</p> <p>Rear Lounge/Diner, Front Breakfast/Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC, Garage and Driveway, Private Rear Garden.</p> <p><b>£155,000</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - E</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield Road</b> Rushall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi detached house</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>Majority PVCu double glazed</li> <li>3 reception rooms, kitchen</li> <li>4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC</li> <li>Driveway and gardens</li> <li>NO ONWARD CHAIN</li> <li>Great Potential</li> </ul> <p><b>£225,000</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - E</b></p> <p><b>Haervalg Place</b> Shareshill</p> <p>Built to good quality specifications by local builders Fresh Space, approximately 10 years ago, this beautifully presented and deceptively spacious self-contained ground floor apartment forms part of an exclusive infilling development at the heart of this popular Staffordshire Village, well served by excellent Motorway connections and access to surrounding Town and City Centres. The gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation briefly includes:- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Expensively Equipped Bathroom/WC, Garage in Battery Block, and Parking NO ONWARD CHAIN</p> <p><b>£144,950</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - B</b></p> <p><b>Stafford Road</b> Bloxwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Detached Family Home</li> <li>Two Reception Rooms</li> <li>Fitted Breakfast Kitchen</li> <li>Cloakroom, Conservatory</li> <li>5+3 bedrooms, Three En-Suites</li> <li>Family Bathroom/WC, Single Garage with space to Extend, Ample Driveway Parking and Generous Secluded Plot</li> </ul> <p><b>£450,000</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Baytree Close</b> Bloxwich</p> <p>Occupying a secluded cul-de-sac location close to King George V Memorial Playing Fields, this well appointed and much extended semi detached bungalow is most worthy of early internal viewing! The gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed accommodation briefly includes:- Entrance Hall/Stairs, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms on the Ground Floor, Tiled Bathroom/WC with Separate Shower Cubicle, First Floor Master Bedroom with En-suite WC, Large Workshop at Rear, Block Paved Driveway, Landscaped Mature Gardens.</p> <p><b>£250,000</b></p>
 <p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Turnberry Road</b> Bloxwich</p> <p>Cloaks/WC, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Good Sized Reception Rooms (one being used as a Study), Sun Lounge Extension, Four Excellent Bedrooms, the Master having Built In Furniture and a Shower Room/WC En-suite, Re-fitted Family Bathroom/WC, Single Garage with space to Extend, Ample Driveway Parking and Generous Secluded Plot</p> <p><b>£300,000</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - B</b></p> <p><b>Stafford Road</b> Bloxwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Detached Family Home</li> <li>Two Reception Rooms</li> <li>Fitted Breakfast Kitchen</li> <li>Cloakroom, Conservatory</li> <li>5+3 bedrooms, Three En-Suites</li> <li>Family Bathroom, Large Driveway</li> <li>Rear Garden</li> <li>No Onward Chain</li> </ul> <p><b>£450,000</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Stamp Duty Paid by vendor</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield Road</b> Bloxwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi detached house</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>Double glazed</li> <li>2 reception rooms, breakfast room, conservatory,</li> <li>3 bedroom on first floor, bathroom/WC</li> <li>3 bedrooms on second floor</li> <li>Ample parking, garden, separate garage</li> <li>1/3 acre garden plot</li> </ul> <p><b>£349,950</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>The Oaks</b> Bloxwich</p> <p>Situated in a small infilling cul-de-sac surrounded by mature trees and within easy walking distance of Bloxwich High Street, this modern detached family home dates from 2002. Being most worthy of early internal viewing, the gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed accommodation briefly includes:- Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Laundry and Guests Cloaks/WC, Four Excellent Bedrooms, the Master having an En-suite Shower Room/WC, Bathroom/WC, Single Car Integral Garage, Ample Parking and Mature Gardens</p> <p><b>£199,950</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p>
 <p><b>Energy Rating - D</b></p> <p><b>Highgrove Close</b> Willenhall</p> <p>Extended Front Lounge, Extended Dining Room, Conservatory, Extended/Re-fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guests Cloaks/WC, Three Bedrooms, the Master having Built In Furniture, Fully Tiled Shower Room/WC, Single Car Garage, Driveway Parking, Landscaped Gardens (not overlooked to the rear)</p> <p><b>£220,000</b></p>	 <p><b>Energy Rating - E</b></p>	 <p><b>Stamp Duty Paid by vendor</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield Road</b> Bloxwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi detached house</li> <li>Gas centrally heated</li> <li>Double glazed</li> <li>2 reception rooms, breakfast room, conservatory,</li> <li>3 bedroom on first floor, bathroom/WC</li> <li>3 bedrooms on second floor</li> <li>Ample parking, garden, separate garage</li> <li>1/3 acre garden plot</li> </ul> <p><b>£349,950</b></p>		



# Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

# 0121 289 3838

## Auction

Thursday 3rd  
August 2017  
at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall  
Football Club, Bescot  
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA

**LOT 1**  
**Eldon Street  
Walsall**  
1st August 12pm

Situated within walking distance of Walsall town centre this three bedroom end terrace property is in need of modernisation throughout. This property is ideally suited towards investors. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Front reception room 3.7m x 3m, Reception room two 4m x 3.6m, Kitchen 4.3m x 2.1m, Bathroom 2.7m x 2.1m First Floor Bedroom one 4.1m x 3.7m, Bedroom two 3.7m x 3.2m, Bedroom three rear 4.3m x 2.1m

•Guide Price £65,000 PLUS

**LOT 2**  
**Glebe Place  
Darlaston**  
1st August 10am

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, this traditionally styled end of terrace property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. It is in need of further modernisation and improvement. With all amenities close at hand the property has a good size rear garden and comprises of the following:- Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Front door leads to Reception Hall with stairs off and store cupboard, door to Lounge plus double glazed bay window, Kitchen, Lobby with access to W.C. and useful Store. Upstairs there is three bedroom snad one bathroom.

•Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

**LOT 3**  
**Ogley Road  
Walsall**  
1st August 2pm

Within a stone's throw of Brownhills Town Centre in a popular location, this traditional semi-detached property has gas central heating and double glazing. Set back from the road behind a foregarden and driveway with off street parking the property is conveniently located and would make an ideal purchase for investor/builder. The accommodation comprises:- Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Front door leads to Reception Hall with stairs off and door to Lounge, door to Kitchen with access to Lobby with W.C. Upstairs there is three bedrooms and one bathroom.

•Guide Price £92,500 PLUS

**LOT 4**  
**Woodwards Road  
Walsall**  
1st August 10:30am

This two bedroom end terraced property offers spacious accommodation, which although requiring some improvement, would make an ideal purchase for an investor. Potential purchasers are recommended to inspect the mining search, with all amenities close at hand, the property comprises: Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Reception Room (4.2m x 3.8m), Kitchen (2.8m x 2.7m) First Floor Bedroom one (4.9m x 3.3m), Bedroom Two (3.9m x 2.7m), Bathroom (2m x 1.7m)

•Guide Price £65,000 PLUS

**LOT 5**  
**Elmsdale Court,  
Birmingham Road  
Walsall**  
1st August 11:30am

A purpose built ground floor flat situated on the Birmingham Road within a five minute walk of Walsall town centre. Of particular appeal to either a first time buyer or investor the property has night storage heaters and car port accessed from Jesson Road. Accommodation Reception Hall with cloaks cupboard, stairs leading to front and side Kitchen with range of units, Bedroom, Bathroom with white suite. Outside Communal Gardens, car port. The property is leasehold with the benefit of an extended lease.

•Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

**LOT 6**  
**Brownhills Road  
Walsall Wood**  
1st August 2:30pm

Situated in a popular residential area a short distance from Brownhills town centre this two bedroom ground floor maisonette is in need of modernisation throughout. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Lounge 4.6m x 3.7m, Bedroom one 3.4m x 3.1m, Bedroom two 4m x 3.1m, Kitchen 2.6m x 2.1m, Shower room 1.9m x 1.6m

•Guide Price £67,000 PLUS

**LOT 8**  
**Foster Street  
Bloxwich**  
1st August 4pm

This two bedroom terraced property is in need of some modernisation. With gas fired central heating, the property is ideally suited towards both owner occupiers and investors. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Reception Room 3.8m x 3.5m, Reception room 4.9m x 3.8m, Kitchen 4.3m x 2m, Shower room 1st Floor Bedroom One 4.8m x 3.6m & Bedroom two 4.2m x 4m, Bathroom 4.3m x 2.1m. Second Floor Attic Room

•Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

**LOT 10**  
**Barns Lane  
Rushall**  
1st August 3:30pm

This two bedroom bungalow is in need of modernisation throughout. The property is situated in a popular residential area and with all amenities close at hand it comprises: Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Lounge 4.9m x 3m, Kitchen, Bathroom, Bedroom one 3.6m x 2.7m, and bedroom two.

•Guide Price £99,950 PLUS

**LOT 11**  
**Lower Maisonette,Norton Terrace  
Norton Canes**  
By Appointment through auctioneers

Situated in a popular residential area a short walk from both Norton Canes high school and Chasewater Country park, this ground floor maisonette requires little work. The property is ideally suited towards both home owners and investors. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Tenure Leasehold Ground Floor Bedroom one (3m x 2m), Bathroom (1.9m x 1.6m), Kitchen (3m x 2m), Reception Room (5.9m x 3.2m), Bedroom two (3.3m x 3.1m), Bedroom three (3.8m x 3m)

•Guide Price £50,000 PLUS

**LOT 14**  
**St James Avenue  
Rowley Regis**  
By appointment though Auctioneers

This semi-detached property (originally a three bedroom) is in the process of being extended at ground and first floor level and is currently semi derelict. Cash offers only are therefore invited for the property which will eventually offer spacious well proportioned living accommodation. Situated in a popular residential area this property was a former police house.

•Guide Price £85,000 PLUS

**LOT 15**  
**Nursery Road  
Bloxwich**  
1st August 4:30pm

Situated close to Bloxwich town centre and occupying a prominent corner plot, this semi detached property is in need of complete modernisation and improvement, although does have gas central heating and double glazing. The property comprises:- Tenure Freehold Ground Floor Front Door, Reception Hall, Lounge 4.12m x 3.97m, Kitchen 5.18m x 2.29m, First Floor Staircase leads to Landing and doors to Bedroom One (front) 3.3m x 3m, Bedroom Two (rear) 2.48m x 2.34m, Bedroom Three (rear) 3.2m x 2.62m, Bathroom Outside Fore, Side and Rear Gardens

•Guide Price £78,000 PLUS

**LOT 16**  
**Parklands Gardens  
Walsall**  
By appointment through auctioneers

An appealing one bedroom flat with delightful views across Queen Mary's playing fields. Ideal for first time buyer or buy to let investment. Close to all amenities the property includes hall, lounge with appealing aspect, kitchen, double bedroom, re fitted bathroom. Currently tenanted at 425pcm. Tenure Leasehold Accommodation Hall, lounge with appealing aspect, kitchen, double bedroom, re fitted bathroom. Tenancy Currently tenanted at 425pcm.

•Guide Price £59,000 PLUS

**LOT 17**  
**Fairfield Mount, Highgate Road  
Walsall**  
By appointment through auctioneers

A stunning period property situated in one of Walsall's most prestigious locations along a no through road. The property lies within a conservation area. The large accommodation is set over three floors with a number of en suite bathrooms and ample living space. The gas centrally heated property includes: Ground Floor Vestibule, Reception Hall, Guest W.C., Sitting Room Living Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Further Outhouse with W.C., First Floor three Bedrooms, Two Ensuite, Family Bathroom.

•Guide Price £275,000 PLUS

•Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide





#### Walker Road, Walsall

Auction Guide Price £85,000



	1		3
	1	EPC	D

#### Cedar Road, Wednesbury

Auction Guide Price £135,000



	2		3
	1	EPC	

#### Blay Avenue, Walsall

Auction Guide Price £90,000



	1		2
	2	EPC	E

#### Birmingham New Road, Wolverhampton

Auction Guide Price £150,000



	2		3
	1	EPC	E

#### Bradley Lane, Bilston

Auction Guide Price £100,000



	1		3
	1	EPC	

#### South View Road, Sedgley

Auction Guide Price £125,000



	1		3
	1	EPC	F

#### Stafford Road, Wolverhampton

Auction Guide Price £105,000



	2		3
	1	EPC	E

#### Redhall Road, Lower Gornal

Auction Guide Price £89,950



	1		2
	1	EPC	C

## Contact your Local High Street Branch.

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[willenhall@skitts.net](mailto:willenhall@skitts.net) 01902 631151

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[lettings@skitts.net](mailto:lettings@skitts.net) 0121 520 2255

SOLD £96,500



#### Alumwell Road, Walsall

	1		3
	1	EPC	D

SOLD £82,500



#### Lilac Grove, Bentley, Walsall

	2		2
	1	EPC	D

SOLD £260,000



#### Church Hill, Wolverhampton

	2		3
	1	EPC	TBC

## NEXT AUCTION

THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2017

AT

HAYWARD SUITE, MOLINEUX STADIUM

WATERLOO ROAD

WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 4QR

6.00PM REGISTRATION 7.00PM START



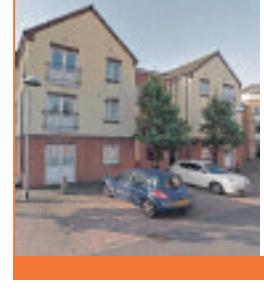
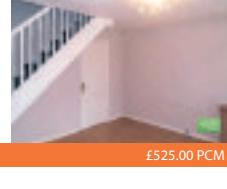
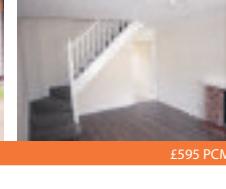
# Walsall 01922 711444

New Office Location 200 High Street, Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 3LA

[goodchilds-uk.com](http://goodchilds-uk.com)

**GOODCHILD'S**  
Estate Agents and Lettings

**NEWTONFALLOWELL**   
PART OF THE NEWTON FALLOWELL GROUP

 <p><b>Harrison Street, Bloxwich</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground Floor</li> <li>• One Bedroom</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> <li>• Electric Heating</li> <li>• Rating: 2</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> </ul> <p> £325 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Lichfield Road, Rushall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Bedroom Flat</li> <li>• Above Retail Premises</li> <li>• Lounge</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> <li>• Rating: 10</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> </ul> <p> £350 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Tame Close, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Floor Flat</li> <li>• Lounge</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> <li>• Large Bedroom</li> <li>• Rating: 65</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> </ul> <p> £395 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Marton Court, High street</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Bedroom</li> <li>• Bloxwich High Street</li> <li>• Lounge</li> <li>• Large Bedroom</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Communal Grounds</li> <li>• Rating: 68</li> </ul> <p> £400 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Signal Grove, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat</li> <li>• Private Porch Entrance</li> <li>• Lounge</li> <li>• Open Plan Kitchen</li> <li>• Allocated Parking</li> <li>• Rating: 56</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> </ul> <p> Monthly Rental Of £425</p>	 <p><b>Walker Road, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment</li> <li>• Open Plan Lounge</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Allocated Parking</li> <li>• Rating: 87</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> </ul> <p> £475 PCM</p>
 <p><b>Manor House Close, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Bedroom</li> <li>• Secure Intercom Access</li> <li>• Ground Floor Apartment</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> <li>• Rating: 80</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> </ul> <p> £450.00 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Walker Road, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment</li> <li>• Open Plan Lounge</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Family Bathroom &amp; Ensuite</li> <li>• Allocated Parking</li> <li>• Rating: 85</li> </ul> <p> £475 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Wolverhampton Street, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Bedroom Apartment</li> <li>• Lift Access</li> <li>• Fitted Appliances</li> <li>• Close to Town Centre</li> <li>• Gated Allocated Parking</li> <li>• Rating: 76</li> </ul> <p> £475 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Pendlebury Close, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment</li> <li>• Lounge with French Doors</li> <li>• Kitchen with Appliances</li> <li>• Bathroom &amp; Ensuite</li> <li>• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers</li> <li>• Rating: 83</li> </ul> <p> Monthly Rental Of £495.00</p>		
 <p><b>NEW Dora Street Walsall, Dora Street</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Bedroom Terrace</li> <li>• Two Reception Rooms</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Rear Garden</li> <li>• Rating: 55</li> </ul> <p> £525 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Manorhouse Close, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom Apartment</li> <li>• Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen</li> <li>• Bathroom</li> <li>• Entrance Hallway</li> <li>• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers</li> <li>• Rating: 68</li> </ul> <p> £525.00 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Enville Close, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom Semi-Detached</li> <li>• Popular Turnberry Estate</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Lounge with Patio Doors</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> <li>• Rating: 77</li> </ul> <p> £525.00 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Ingreste Close, Turnberry Estate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom Terrace</li> <li>• Cul-de-Sac Location</li> <li>• Popular Turnberry Estate</li> <li>• Through Lounge</li> <li>• Rating: 50</li> <li>• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers</li> </ul> <p> £540 PCM</p>		
 <p><b>Stuarts Road, Birmingham,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom Mid-Terraced House</li> <li>• Two Reception Rooms</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> <li>• Ground Floor Bathroom</li> <li>• Rear Garden</li> <li>• DHSS Accepted</li> </ul> <p> £550 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Newhome Way, Blakenall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Bedroom Mid Terraced Townhouse</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> <li>• Downstairs WC</li> <li>• Lounge</li> <li>• Family Bathroom</li> <li>• Rating: 82</li> </ul> <p> £575.00 PCM</p>	 <p><b>NEW Squires Grove, Willenhall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom Apartment</li> <li>• Lounge with Double Doors</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Master Bedroom with Ensuite</li> <li>• Sorry No DHSS</li> <li>• Rating: 67</li> </ul> <p> Monthly Rental Of £595.00 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Coxmoor Close, Turnberry Estate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Bedroom Terrace</li> <li>• Popular Turnberry Location</li> <li>• New Flooring Throughout</li> <li>• Two Double Bedrooms</li> <li>• Rating: 66</li> <li>• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers</li> </ul> <p> £595 PCM</p>		
 <p><b>NEW Water Reed Grove, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Bedrooms</li> <li>• Cloakroom / WC</li> <li>• Kitchen/Diner</li> <li>• Family Bathroom &amp; Ensuite Shower Room</li> <li>• Fully Furnished House</li> <li>• Rating: 89</li> </ul> <p> £725 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Vernon Way, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two/Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow</li> <li>• Two Reception Rooms</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Ample Off Road Parking</li> <li>• Rating: 46</li> <li>• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers</li> </ul> <p> £725 PCM</p>	 <p><b>Meadow Grange Drive, Walsall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five Bedroom Detached</li> <li>• Coppice Farm Estate</li> <li>• Two Reception Rooms</li> <li>• Fitted Kitchen</li> <li>• Rating: 67</li> <li>• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers</li> </ul> <p> £850 PCM</p>	 <p><b>GOODCHILD'S</b> Estate Agents and Lettings</p> <p><b>NEWTONFALLOWELL</b>  PART OF THE NEWTON FALLOWELL GROUP</p> <p><b>TO LET</b></p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p>		

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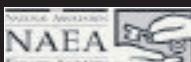
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<b>BLOXWICH</b> VICTORIA AVENUE	<b>WILLENHALL</b> HARLECH ROAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Detached Home</li> <li>• Guests WC</li> <li>• Lounge</li> <li>• Refitted Kitchen/Diner</li> <li>• 4 Double Bedrooms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• En-Suite</li> <li>• Bathroom</li> <li>• Rear Garden</li> <li>• Garage, Driveway</li> </ul>
<b>\$260,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>BLOXWICH</b> DOWNFIELD CLOSE	<b>WILLENHALL</b> GOREY CLOSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detached Family Home</li> <li>• Sought After Location</li> <li>• Hallway, Lounge</li> <li>• Dining Room.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservatory</li> <li>• Refitted Kitchen, WC</li> <li>• 4 Bedrooms</li> <li>• Refitted Bathroom</li> </ul>
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# Skoda fuels fleet with new engines

By James Parker

Škoda UK has launched petrol engine variants of the highly popular Octavia and Superb SE Tech models for fleet customers. Cost, practicality and safety are key components in the make-up of the models, designed with business customers in mind even though the future of diesel and petrol is still unsure.

Fleet customers now have the option of petrol engines for both SE Tech hatch and estate models in the multi-award winning Octavia and Superb. The new generation direct-injection turbocharged TSI petrol engines offer drivers refinement, performance and flexibility, resulting in a quiet, fuel-efficient and dynamic drive, ideal for high-speed motorways or country and town roads.

The popular Octavia estate 1.0 TSI 115PS DSG uses a seven speed automatic gearbox, which enables it to achieve up to 65.7 mpg on the combined cycle and 108 g/km CO<sub>2</sub> with enough power to deliver 0-62 mph in just 10.2 seconds. The estate model offers low p11d values starting from £20,755 with a BIK rate of 23%. Also available is the 1.4 TSI 150PS with manual and DSG gearbox. From 26 July, an all-new 1.5 litre engine featuring active cylinder technology (ACT) will join the line-up and will be available with a manual gearbox and offer p11d values starting at just £19,615 for the hatch and £20,815 for the estate. The DSG version will be introduced in the Autumn.

The Škoda Superb is available with a 1.4 TSI engine that delivers an impressive 150PS and achieves 0-62mph in less than nine seconds. Performance and practicality are combined with privacy glass and a leather and Alcantara interior, and the estate boasts a class-leading



Octavia petrol SE Tech

660 litre boot space (1,950 litres with the seats down).

Henry Williams, Škoda head of fleet, said: "We have added petrol engines to the Škoda fleet range due to increasing demand from customers. Octavia and Superb already offer a formidable package and by adding even more choice we are demonstrating our commitment to respond to the changing market and the needs of our customers."

Both Superb and Octavia are the perfect companions for business, combining useful tech and the spacious interior that is synonymous with the Škoda model line-up. Each features an 8-inch touchscreen navigation system as standard and the inclusion of SmartLink+ which links to both Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™, plus a MAXI-Dot Trip computer system, to bring the office on the road with you.

For peace of mind for drivers and fleet managers, the new Octavia offers a range of driver assist systems as standard to optimise driving efficiency and safety. Features include Front assist, which uses radar technology to



Superb saloon and estate petrol SE Tech

daytime running lights, front and rear parking sensors, and adaptive cruise control – ideal to maintain efficiency on longer journeys.

The Škoda Superb's award-winning design boasts technical sophistication too, with Wi-Fi and phone signal booster to keep drivers synced with their business whilst on the road, as well as a multifunctional steering wheel that connects to the 8-inch touch screen infotainment system. To make life even easier, additional features include, umbrellas in both

front doors and keyless entry. To help keep drivers alert and safe on the road, Superb offers Blind Spot Detection as well as Smart Light Assist, which enables the driver to see further ahead when driving in the dark and alerts to any upcoming obstacles. Traffic Jam assist uses sensors to detect your surroundings and automatically aligns you to the centre of the lane and assists in braking when traffic is slowing down or comes to a stop in front of you.

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\*Subject to availability. Orders between 4 July - 30 September and registered by 31 December 2017. Excludes Kodiaq S and SE Technology models. Retail only. T&Cs apply.

Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA Kodiaq range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 31.0 (9.1) to 48.7 (5.8); Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4) to 61.4 (4.6); Combined 38.2 (7.4) to 56.5 (5.0). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA Kodiaq range are 170 to 131 g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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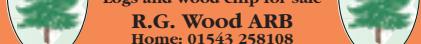
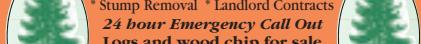
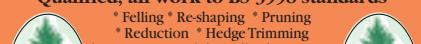
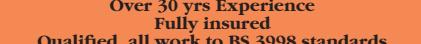
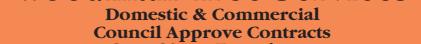
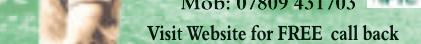
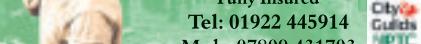
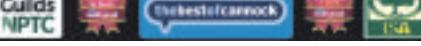
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Former England captain Ted Dexter is now a member of the club after moving to the area



Captain David Barnes (standing) looks on from the balcony at Lord's during the 1973 National Knockout final



Wolverhampton Cricket Club captain James Hammond



The impressive new net facility at Danescourt

## Sykes back on track after Welsh success

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes heads into the Tyneside stages of British Rally Championship this weekend on the back of two successful days on the Nicky Grist Stages event in Wales.

Sykes finished first two wheel drive car on the first day and second on day two in his Batham's Brewery, G I Sykes Ltd, The Body Clinic, Staniland Marina and Summit Platforms-supported Citroën DS3 R3.

Sykes has had a relatively quiet year so far with his season not starting until the Somerset Stages in April. He was leading the "Silver Star" category for two wheel drive cars until he hit a rock which holed the radiator, forcing him into retirement. He had better luck on the Carlisle Stages in Cumbria, finishing joint first and only losing maximum points on a tie-break due to the other driver being quicker on the opening stage.

Next up is the Tyneside Stages which held on the Otterburn ranges in Northumberland on Sunday followed by an event at Donington Park and then two more Silver Star rallies, the Woodpecker and Trackrod Stages.

# Pushing the boundaries to get city into cricket

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Spiers

IT may be a well-worn cliché but in this case it's certainly apt – James Hammond wants to put Wolverhampton cricket on the map.

The sport may trail behind football, speedway and boxing for the city's affections.

But Hammond, captain of Wolverhampton Cricket Club, believes the interest is there – and he's keen for his club to exploit it.

A £60,000 makeover of the club's Danescourt Road ground in Tettenhall will certainly help. The picturesque ground boasts new nets and covers, of county cricket standard, for the players, while fans can watch the action from a charming decking area.

You might even find yourself sitting next to former England captain Ted Dexter who, aged 82, has recently moved to Wolverhampton from his home in France to be nearer to his family and has become a club member.

### Excellent

Next up, Hammond hopes, will be positive results on the pitch.

A run to the quarter-finals of the National Knockout has helped create a buzz around Danescourt as the current side bid to emulate the legendary Wolverhampton sides of 1973 and 1999 who lifted club cricket's most prestigious trophy on never-to-be-forgotten days at Lord's.

Wolverhampton beat The Mote from Kent in their first appearance at the home of cricket and then overcame Middlesex outfit Teddington in 1999.

A home tie with Ockbrook & Borrowash now awaits on August 6 and Hammond, who bagged five wickets in the last 16 victory over Bootle, is hoping it will capture the attention of the city's cricket fans.

"We just need to get more people to come and watch



Vikram Solanki, ex-Wolverhampton, in England colours

us now," he said. "Results will help, people want to see a winning side."

"The new facilities are excellent. With the covers, we'd have eight or nine games called off per season before, but now it's three or four."

"There's so much space here and we've got the capacity for another 100, 200, 300 people."

"We've got to create that buzz, especially on social media and things like that which we're trying to push and promote more."

we're trying to push and promote more."

While 62-times-capped legend Dexter is a very welcome addition to the Wolverhampton ranks, it's future legends that the club wants to produce more than anything.

That said, they've helped nurture their fair share of county players in recent years, as 25-year-old

Hammond is keen to point out. "We've got Ted here through connections, which is great," he added. "Dave Lyett and Chris Bowyer have done a great job fundraising and promoting the club on the social side of things, holding a lot of things in the winter as you need to create that revenue for 12 months."

"To have Ted here is lovely. Wine and cheese nights – not many clubs will be doing that! It can only help boost our exposure."

"We've also got, hopefully, a few future legends. We've had a lot of pros who've come through the ranks – I can't name other clubs who've produced the number of first class cricketers that we have."

In the last 15 or 20 years the likes of current Worcestershire player Tom Fell and Vikram Solanki, who also played for the county and represented England, have played through the age groups to adult cricket at Wolverhampton.

### Toughest

Aneesh Kapil and Chris Russell, two more former Worcestershire players, have also played for the club.

Hammond added: "And Birmingham League Cricket is a great place to play your cricket. It's one of the toughest leagues in the country."

"Plus there's been a raft of overseas players that have come and gone and a few more young stars before my time."

In the most urban of cities, situated in the football hotbed that is the Black Country, it can be hard for local cricket to get the exposure it deserves.

Hammond believes more competitions between local clubs could help attract interest – and maybe see Wolverhampton Cricket Club competing with Wolves, or Wolverhampton Speedway, for the city spotlight.

"It's not just us, there are so many good small clubs in the area," he said.

"We should bring those games back because we don't play half the sides anymore."

"We might play Himley occasionally but we don't play Fordhouses, Penn, Wightwick & Finchfield or Codsall as much as we should. There's the Black Country T20 week but a cup organised with more local teams would be good."

"You associate Wolverhampton with football, speedway and maybe boxing, but the interest in cricket is up there."

## Gazza returns to the region for Q&A night

PAUL Gascoigne is set to return to the West Midlands later next month for a live question and answer session.

The former England star will take the stage at The H Suite in Birmingham on September 15 to tell the story of the highs and lows of his football career and beyond.

It marks Gazza's first appearance on stage in the region since his infamous 2015 show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall, which resulted in a court appearance after he admitted making a racist comment to a security guard.

The event, which is being put on by Wolverhampton-based promoters Showfighter UK, also offers meet and greet opportunities with Gazza and features a meal and a memorabilia auction.

Showfighter UK director Andy Sahota said: "Our Three Lions-themed evening will be a celebration of one of England's most iconic footballers."

Further details and tickets are available at [www.showfighter.co.uk/events](http://www.showfighter.co.uk/events)

## Rutter is back on superbikes podium

BRIERLEY Hill-born Michael Rutter returned to the circuits after another successful stint on the roads in Finland to secure two more podiums in the National Superstock 1000 Championship.

The 45-year-old rider claimed two seconds and a fourth on the Bathams/SMT Racing BMW at Brands Hatch. It means Danny Buchan still leads the championship from Richard Cooper with Rutter maintaining third place, 13.5 points clear of Chrissy Rouse.

Meanwhile, Kurt Wigley, 21, from Hednesford, brought his Sorrymate. Yamaha home in 11th and 12th places in the British Supersport series to sit 15th in the championship.

Twin brother Matt had an operation last week to cement his crushed vertebrae following a bad crash in the National Superstock 1000 class and on the mend – and says he is "looking forward to returning".

The British Superbike support classes now head to Thruxton, in Hampshire, for round seven this weekend, from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday.

# Sport

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## County pair on target to beat Walsall

TWO county players had a hand in Walsall's Birmingham League Premier Division defeat to Ombersley.

Walsall sit just outside the drop zone after the four-wicket loss.

Liam Gwynne smashed 108 for the hosts, who were asked to bat after Walsall won the toss, hitting eight fours and two sixes in his 119-ball innings. With 65 in 72 balls from Worcestershire man Brett D'Oliveira, Ombersley racked up 292-6 declared off their 50 overs.

Walsall opener Danny-Jo Cox was unbroken on 77, but ran out of partners as his side were skittled for 135, losing by 157 runs, ex-Worcestershire star Gareth Andrew taking 5-48 in 17 overs. Berkswell's 229-9, Tom Lewis 59, was more than enough to beat West Bromwich Dartmouth, who were 102 all out - 127 runs short - Shoaiz Ali with 54.

Smethwick sit sixth in division one after losing at new leaders Moseley.

The Birmingham hosts were driven to a total of 250 by Robert Yates' superb 105 from 130 balls.

The visitors were all out for 170 in response, wicketkeeper Amrinder Brar knocked 89 but Naqash Tahir's stunning haul of 7-44 put paid to any Smethwick hopes of taking something from the afternoon.

C&R Hawks won at Old Hill in division two.

The hosts, eighth and just 11 points clear of the drop zone, were dismissed for just 78 chasing 202. Opener Valedi Butt (81) starred with the bat with Johar Ahmed taking four wickets.

## Pelsall maintain grip on Staffs Clubs Premier

TODD Henderson made a significant contribution as Pelsall maintained their grip on the Staffs Clubs Premier Division.

He took 3-20 as Hammerwich made 160, Ben Traat with 69, while Paul Grainger claimed 5-57.

Henderson then ended on 89 not out with the bat as Pelsall reached 161-4 to win by six wickets.

A ton from Arrend de Waal Gagliano and Abdul Salom 40 took Wednesbury to 206, but it was not enough to defeat Aldridge, who scraped home with three balls to spare. Aldridge bowler Daniel Shortland took four wickets.

In response, Chris De Wit (60), Nabil Yaqub (55) and Nasir Khan (45) saw Aldridge home.

Muhamad Zubair top-scored with 51 of Walsall YPF's 161, but 65 in reply from Paul Baker saw Springvale home by a single wicket.

Matt Merrick helped himself to 61 not out as Rushall swept aside Beacon's second XI by seven wickets in division one.

Luke Jones had hit 73 in Beacon's 198 but Rushall totalled 199-3 in reply.



## How's that for getting cricket club on the map?

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## Darlaston hit by Firs' four-goal salvo

Darlaston Town (1874) 2 Smithwood Firs 6

A STUNNING four-goal salvo in the second half saw Midland League Smithwood Firs bring Darlaston's six-game winning streak to an end at The Paycare Ground.

The visitors were impressive from the start but Darlaston matched them stride for stride taking the lead in the 7th minute when Art Follows squeezed home a Daryl Westwood corner. On 16 minutes the visitors drew level when Sawyer set up Bertie to score with a deft header.

The home side went in front again on 21 minutes when Follows burst into the box to score his second of the game from 15 yards. Both Bertie and Ty Smith drilled efforts wide before the equaliser arrived two minutes before the break. Trea Bertie and Danny Charlton combining to set up Ty Smith who drilled home with the outside of his boot through a crowded goalmouth.

The second half was a different affair with the visitors turning up the heat with a dazzling 45 minutes. Firstly on 53 minutes Aaron Anderson

and Trea Bertie combined for Martin Crawford to fire home into the bottom corner. The visitors doubled their advantage two minutes later when a stray Dave Richards pass was intercepted by Bertie who converted comfortably from 15 yards after rounding keeper Morris.

The impressive visitors were well on top and two late goals gave the scoreboard a slightly flattering look firstly Aime Munanga and then Khalil Harrison four minutes from time completed the scoring.

## Wood fail to make most of chances

Aylestone Park 3 Walsall Wood 1

A FIRST ever Wood goal by Daniel Oko-Edem had put them ahead at the break but it should have been five or six.

Two absolute super strikes by Santos in the 46th and 64th minutes put the home side ahead. After only five minutes Santos popped up in the centre of the D, his rising first time effort bringing a great save from Wood keeper Lloyd Ransome.

Wood started to put the home defence under a bit of pressure but it took until 20 minutes for a Craig Deakin effort to bring a superb save from home keeper Conor Middleton.

Within a minute of the restart the hosts were level, a ball inside from Nick Coleford found Santos 25 yards out, he took one touch and his sweet strike flew into the top right hand corner with Ransome rooted to the spot. On 55 minutes an intricate Wood move ended with Butlin fouled on the edge of the D, Till's free kick beat Middleton but bounced to safety off the bar. A carbon copy of their first goal put the home side ahead on 64 minutes, Santos again with another peach of an effort.

Wood kept going forward but couldn't break down a resolute defence.

With 5 minutes left Joel Porter got on the end of a right wing cross to power a header home. It's the magic of the F.A. Cup on Saturday at home as the season starts for real. The league season starts on August 12, with a visit to Cadbury Athletic, never an easy place to go to.

## Monkton is placed among the top ten

BLACK Country Triathlete Ben Monkton travelled to Snowdonia this weekend to compete in the Snowman full distance triathlon which involved a 1km swim in Llyn Mymbyr at Plas y Brenin, a 70km ride through the heart of Snowdonia National Park which he says had stunning views, good fast descents and hard climbs, followed by a brutal 9km run with the first 3km gaining about 650m of ascent to the summit of Moel Siabod. Monkton finished in an overall time of 3:44:36 and seventh overall and despite it being a tough race said he'd recommend it and would be back to race it again.

### I thought of quitting, says Ellie



Ellie seen with her medals from the last Paralympics competition held in Rio

FIVE-TIME Paralympic champion Ellie Simmonds will return to full-time training next month - after admitting she considered retiring.

The 22-year-old, from Aldridge, has taken a break from competitive action since winning the SM6 200 metres individual medley at the Rio Paralympics last year.

Simmonds, who also took S6 400m freestyle bronze last year, has still been training part-time but is now gearing up for a permanent return after previously mulling over retirement.

She said: "After a Paralympics you're always

on a low. It's one of the biggest sporting events and you're on such a high. When it's done you feel empty and that motivation is lacking. There were days where I thought, 'Oh, should I retire? I've achieved my dreams of getting gold'.

"But there's something deep down inside me that's thinking I want to keep going and I want to be the best athlete I can be."

Simmonds has no official comeback to racing pencilled in but is eyeing next year's World Para Swimming European Championships in Dublin.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.

Thursday, August 3, 2017

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